

Sleepless in Seattle: Gov't didn't care

STORY BELOW, COLUMN 2

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Asean, China to form biggest free trade bloc BUSINESS / B1
- PLDT-GMA-7 deal deferred BUSINESS / B4
- Judge fired over drug queen NEWS / A4

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

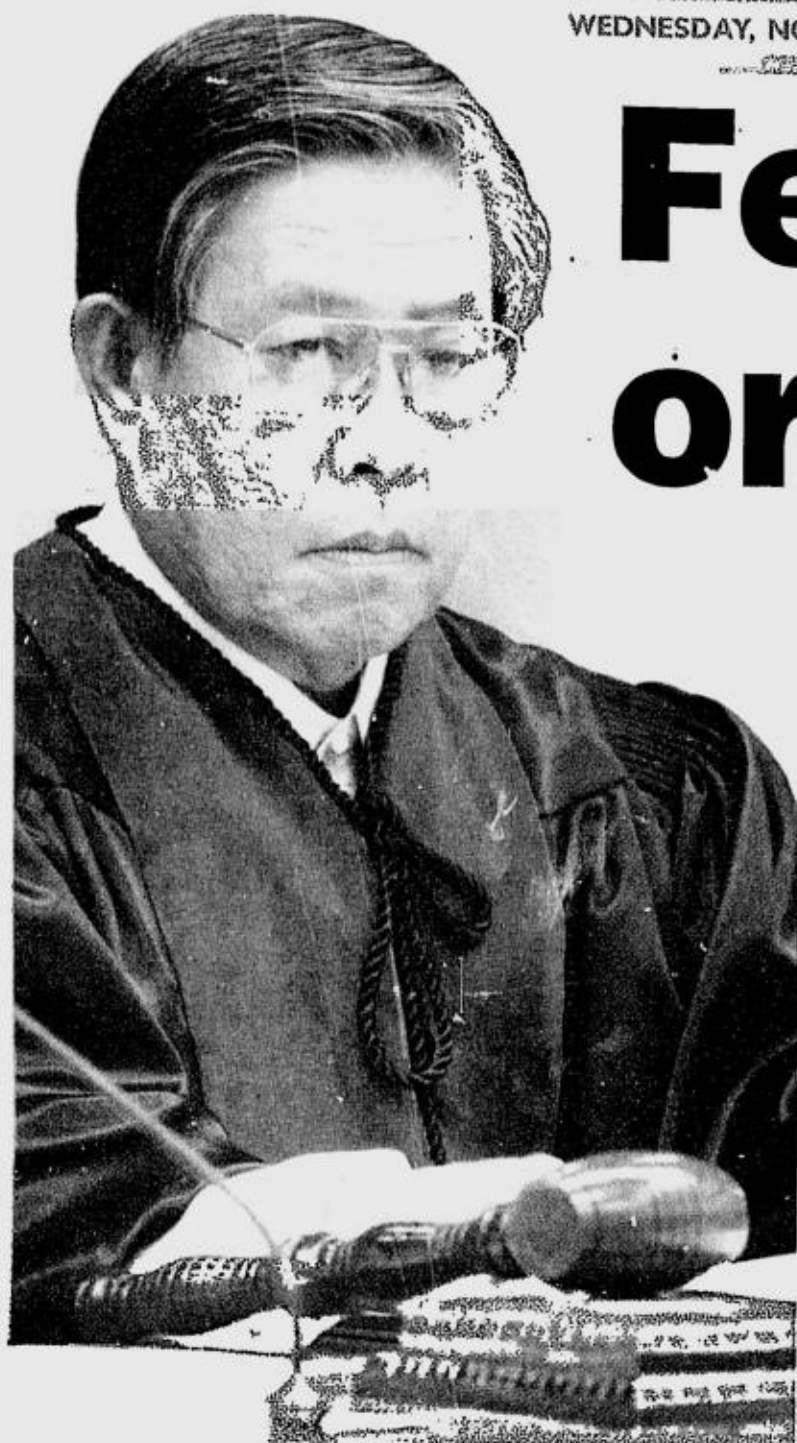
website: www.inq7.net

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2001 ★★ 58 PAGES 5 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO.332 ₱15

'Least corrupt administration'
BY C. PABLO
PRESIDENTIAL spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao used Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo's first-ever news conference to suggest a cautionary LEAST/ A18



DAVIDE: Cease and desist from holding press conferences, issuing statements, giving interviews to the media... JESS YUSON

Doc says Erap must be treated only in US

BY VOLT CONTRERAS

JOSEPH Estrada's camp yesterday got a California-based bone surgeon to explain why he should be allowed to seek treatment overseas for his arthritic knees.

His party, the Partido ng Masang Pilipino, also challenged the Catholic Church, a powerful anti-Estrada force, to practice what it preaches: compassion for the ill and hurting. The PMP produced what ap-

peared to be a medical bulletin by Estrada's orthopedic surgeon, a Dr. Christopher S. Mow, which stated that the facilities needed to treat Estrada were not found here.

It also stated that Estrada, 64, had to go under the knife "before excessive damage occurs to the structures within the knee joints."

The bulletin from Mow, a clinical assistant professor at the Stanford University Medical Cen-

ERAP/ A6

Gloria confident of Asean remedies

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday returned home from the annual gathering of Southeast Asian leaders, confident that the major decisions reached at the Asean summit in Brunei would haul the region out of a severe economic downturn.

Ms Macapagal and other leaders of the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations differed over the US-led drive against international terrorism.

But they closed ranks on a host of remedies aimed at restoring the region's competitive edge and luster as an investment destination.

Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji and Asean leaders on Tuesday agreed

to set up the world's largest free trade zone that would cover 2 billion consumers. (See story in Business, B1)

"I arrive home with an abiding confidence that the major decisions at the Asean summit will bode well for the economic, political and social welfare of Asean as an organization and its individual member countries," Ms Macapagal said in her arrival speech. She arrived at 4:30 p.m.

She was met at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport by First Gentleman Mike Arroyo and daughter Luli as well as by members of the Cabinet and the diplo-

MACAPAGAL/ A18

Garchitorena, Badoy to see Davide Nov. 10

BY VOLT CONTRERAS

in Manila

AND ANTHONY S. ALLADA
PDI Mindanao Bureau

THE SUPREME Court yesterday ordered Associate Justice Anacleto Badoy Jr. and Sandiganbayan Presiding Justice Francis Garchitorena to shut up amid fears that the squabble between the two senior members of the anti-graft court could derail the trial of ousted President Joseph Estrada.

"In the meantime, you are each requested to cease and desist from holding press conferences, issuing press statements, or giving interviews to the media on matters related to the controversy between the two of you," Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. said in his letter.

Supreme Court spokesperson Ismael Khan said "the two have been summoned to explain to each other why there are differences between them."

David wants to talk with the two protagonists at 10 a.m. on Saturday.

The feud became public on Sunday when Badoy, chair of the third division handling the plunder case against Estrada, held a press conference and accused Garchitorena of pressuring him to resign.

Garchitorena denied this and said another justice had suggested Badoy withdraw from the Estrada cases or resign because of his tardiness and other administrative shortcomings.

The prosecutors have expressed concern that the bickering could affect the court proceedings against Estrada, who is accused of amassing a fortune from illegal gambling payoffs, tax kickbacks and commissions from government transactions while in office.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said allow-

FEUDING/ A18



BADYO: The Supreme Court has no alternative but to dismiss him outright. VAL HANDUMON



GARCHITORENA: I will have to issue statements to defend myself. EDWIN BACASMAS

JUDICIAL TURMOIL

Impeachment rap filed against Desierto for graft

BY CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO
AND MICHAEL LIM UBAC

AN impeachment case against Ombudsman Aniano Desierto was filed yesterday in the House by a lawyer who claimed to have given him video equipment and "goodwill money" amounting to almost P1 million in exchange for sitting on a case in 1997.

Ernesto Francisco, a former associate lawyer for the Accra law office, lodged the 45-page complaint at the office of House Secretary General Robert Nazareno.

Misamis Oriental Rep. Oscar Moreno endorsed the complaint. He told reporters that he did so "because I believe in (Francisco's) sincerity, and the complaint-affidavit was detailed enough."

Moreno was part of the prosecution at Jo-

seph Estrada's impeachment trial last year. Desierto heads the prosecution at Estrada's trial for plunder at the Sandiganbayan.

Francisco charged Desierto with bribery, culpable violation of the Constitution and betrayal of the public trust under Sections 1, 12, and 13 (1), in relation to Sections 2 and 3 of Article XI of the 1987 Constitution.

He said Desierto received from his client Luke Roxas the video equipment and "goodwill money" in exchange for holding in abeyance the investigation of a scam that involved Roxas' bank.

Roxas was the controlling stockholder of several companies including the ASB Realty Inc. and the Bank of Southeast Asia (BSA), which is now known as DBS (Development Bank of Singapore)-Philippines.

IMPEACHMENT/ A7



ANOTHER presidential homecoming is an occasion for hugs and kisses from daughter Luli and the broad smiles of a welcoming husband. EDWIN BACASMAS

Democracy, free media blamed for RP's woes

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

LEE KUAN Yew would have said, "I told you so," had he heard a Filipino magnate yesterday blame democracy and the media for the country's economic woes.

Federation of Philippine Industries chair Raul T. Concepcion is urging President Macapagal to use the coming National Economic Summit as a forum to discuss whether the country's "freewheeling democracy and media" are the roots of the economy's troubles. He also hinted that the President could use special powers to clamp down on the allegedly freewheeling practices of Philippine democracy.

Which echoes the prescription for development of Lee Kuan Yew, the father of Singapore's economic miracle. He has often lectured the Philippines on the exuberance of its democracy that "leads to undisciplined and disorderly conditions... inimical to development." Thus, he prescribes discipline above democracy.

Other Asean countries such as Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand have experienced long-term economic growth because they have

DEMOCRACY/ A18



OK then, Wel S. Come completes simulated flight in LA, California, last year. He's not so OK now.

Sleepless in Seattle: Gov't didn't care

BY ROLY EMBILE
AND ROMULO O. PONTE
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

NOT a single Philippine government official helped pilots Wel S. Come and Bernie L. Crisostomo—not while they were being interrogated in Seattle on suspicion that they were bioterrorists, not when they were being deported to the Philippines, not even when they reached Philippine soil.

Come is now appealing to government officials to be quick in assisting Filipinos travelling abroad so they will not be sub-

jected to the ordeal he and Crisostomo underwent at the Seattle-Tacoma international airport last week.

He also wants the government to help him and Crisostomo clear their names.

According to Come's sister, Dr. Fe Come-Ducusin, nobody from the Philippine Embassy in the United States came to help her brother and Crisostomo while they were being grilled by American authorities.

"And even when they reached the Philippines, no one was even at the airport to assist them. Nobody cared. It was only the media that was concerned, that cared,"

Ducusin said.

Come and Crisostomo, both pilots of chartered planes, were detained and interrogated upon arrival on Oct. 31 at the Seattle airport by agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). The Americans had received a tip from Manila that the two were carrying anthrax bacteria.

The two were subjected to intense grilling and questioned on various matters ranging from their personal circumstances to their links to terrorist groups in the Philippines.

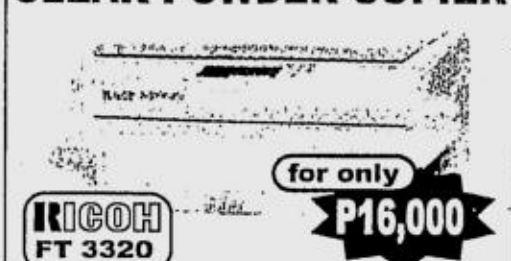
SLEEPLESS/ A6

Second FRONT PAGE



'WE ARE READY'

Gov't unfazed by Nur's threat

COPYSTAR OFFICE AUTOMATION
 PROVEN HEAVY DUTY COPIER REMANUFACTURED
 Introducing
CLEAR POWDER COPIER

 for only **P16,000**
SALES: 899-7101 up to 04 / 899-7045 • 899-7075 to 76 • 899-7023

 MAIN OFFICE: COPYSTAR Bldg. 948 J.P. Rizal Ave., Makati City • Fax: 899-7802
 CEBU OFFICE: 170 Sanaingko St., Cebu City • 255-0504 • 256-3308 to 60
 PAMPANGA: McArthur Hwy., Dolores San. Pdo., Pampanga • 963-5055 to 58 • Fax: 963-5059

UNLEASH YOUR FULLEST POTENTIAL!
 Study at **VERNON TAPALLA'S**
COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALISTS
 and **THE WRITING INSTITUTE**

 CP 1 On Speech Improvement, Effective Self-Presentations & Personality Development
 CP 2 On Grammar & Conversational English
 CP 3 On Public Speaking & Leadership Training
 WP 1 On Business & Technical Writing
 PRIVATE TUTORING & CORPORATE TRAINING ARE AVAILABLE.
MAKATI ALABANG - 845-0886 / 753-1048 to 49
 - 850-4756 / 850-4757

BUDGET BUYS
On Quality Bags
CHRISTMAS PROMO

 LUGGAGE • ATTACHE CASE • SCHOOL BAG • CONVENTION BAG • SPORTS BAG • BACK PACK • PORTFOLIO • See also our well crafted ORGANIZERS • WALLETS • PURSE
 WE ACCEPT SPECIAL ORDERS
 CALL US NOW FOR DETAILS: **KIDDOS MARKETING**
 Tel. 252-0641 • 252-0639 • 252-0136
 252-9937 • 252-9948 • 252-1034
 FAX (632) 252-0636
 GUARANTEED GOOD QUALITY AT COMPETITIVE PRICES!

PRESIDENTIAL adviser Eduardo Ermita yesterday issued a blunt warning to ARMM Gov. Nur Misuari to head off his threat to return to armed rebellion even as Malacañang officials discounted that Misuari, founding chair of the Moro National Liberation Front, was capable of carrying out his threat.

"We are ready and the Armed Forces knows what he is doing and we know where his people are," said Ermita, a retired general who helped forge the peace treaty with the MNLF in 1996. Misuari, accusing the government of renegeing on the terms of the peace accord, has threatened to lead a fresh rebellion.

Under that accord, the MNLF abandoned its armed campaign to set up a separate Islamic state and Misuari was elected with government help as governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

"I am asking Governor Misuari not to do anything illegal because he is still in government as governor of ARMM and that will not be good for his standing if he instigates any disturbance," Ermita said in a radio interview.

Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo advised Misuari to reconsider his threat as he no longer has a credible armed following.

"The report to me is that the MNLF integrees are by and large supportive of the Constitution, supportive of our laws, and supportive of the present administration," Romulo said.

In a radio interview, National Security Adviser Rollo Golez said Misuari's forces are concentrated in Sulu and in a small barangay in Zamboanga.

"The threat from Misuari is not that big," Golez said. "Most of his forces are now integrated in the military and police, and they are living good lives already."

Golez said there was no reason to doubt the loyalty of these integrees.

Ermita reiterated a government offer to appoint Misuari as ambassador to a Muslim country, saying: "the door is still open."

He said Misuari's threat to resume his rebellion was related to a decision by the MNLF central committee earlier this year to strip him of effective leadership of the group and reduce him to a mere figurehead.

He said Misuari was trying to prevent the holding of ARMM elections on Nov. 26,

which would result in his replacement as governor.

'Unity accord'

Misuari last week forged a "unity accord" with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, the largest remaining Muslim rebel force currently negotiating peace with the government. The MILF broke away from the MNLF in 1978.

"This is part of a plan to get back the leadership of the MNLF from the 15-man (central committee) and he does not want the election because it will end his term," Ermita said.

Ermita said the military was keeping tabs on Misuari and according to the latest report he was in his home in Sulu and had not engaged in any provocative actions aside from a gathering of some of his armed followers last week.

Under the peace accord with the MNLF, many of Misuari's followers maintain their own enclaves and still hold onto their weapons but "they do not break the law, they do not conduct patrols and do not ambush the forces of government," Ermita said.

No comment

From Brunei where she was preparing to return home after attending the Asean leaders' summit, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday refused to comment on Misuari's threat.

She said she did not want to be dragged into a word war with Misuari who "played a very important role" in achieving Muslim autonomy in Mindanao.

"I don't want to engage in any debate with him, or disparage him or put down his, because he does have that important contribution (to attaining Muslim autonomy in Mindanao)," she said.

But she nonetheless pointed out that Misuari was no longer recognized as the MNLF's leader by the Organization of Islamic Conference of Muslim nations.

"It was Farouk Hussin who represented the MNLF in the last OIC meeting and they

recognized him," she told Manila-based reporters late Monday.

Hussin, presidential adviser on Muslim affairs, heads the 15-man MNLF central committee that ousted Misuari as MNLF chair a few months ago.

He is also the government's candidate for ARMM governor in the Nov. 26 elections.

Romulo said that the endorsement of Hussin's candidacy by the ruling Lakas-NUCD was "part of the democratic process."

"What we want is an orderly, peaceful and clean election and that we want the people of ARMM to express their free choice on who they would want to lead them," he said.

At the Senate, Sen. Robert Barbers yesterday urged the government to assert its authority in the face of the Misuari threat.

"The government must take action by calling Misuari to a conference and inform him of what has been agreed upon before," he said.

Barbers said Misuari must be convinced to stick to the peace agreement he signed.

Senators Manuel Villar and Rodolfo Biazon said Misuari could be held liable for inciting to sedition.

Villar said the people, especially the Muslims, should ignore Misuari's saber-rattling. But while he was not a serious threat, the government must show strength in handling him, Villar said.

Biazon said Misuari was fast losing stature and influence among Muslims both here and abroad. Reports from **Carlito Pablo, Cynthia D. Balana, Dona Pazibugan, Luige del Puerto and AFP**

Palace in panic, Misuari gloats

COTABATO CITY—A defiant ARMM Gov. Nur Misuari yesterday said Malacañang has been thrown into panic over the "reunification" of the Moro National Liberation Front and Moro Islamic Liberation Front, the two main Muslim-led rebel groups in Mindanao.

Eid Kabalu, the MILF spokesperson, said an accord forged with Misuari last week was merely for "cooperation for social concerns of the (Filipino Muslim) people."

Kabalu told reporters that there were "no plans" to merge and described the agreement as a "commitment through peaceful means."

But even as the MNLF founding chair threatened to lead a fresh rebellion against the government, the MILF denied it had joined forces with him.

He also said that the MILF, which broke away from the MNLF in 1978, was still abiding by a ceasefire it

signed with the government in August to help foster peace talks.

"We have this ceasefire agreement with government that we cannot jeopardize. There is nothing unusual or violence involved," Kabalu said.

Misuari last week forged a "unity accord" with the 12,500-strong MILF, which is currently negotiating peace with the government.

In a statement issued here, Misuari said the 5th Bangsamoro People's National Congress, a two-day gathering of MNLF members, had alarmed Malacañang.

"The important thing unfolding now in the Bangsamoro's quest for peace, justice and freedom is the unification and solidarity of MNLF and MILF and this is now creating panic in the Palace," Misuari said.

He said the "long-awaited demand of the Bangsamoro people for the unity and solidarity of these two fraternal organizations was realized with MILF chair Salamat Hashim sending emissaries" to the congress.

MNLF-MILF unity was not a joke "because with the two fronts now united as one, they can now rewrite the history and destiny of Mindanao," Misuari said.

He added that he was willing to pave the way for MILF chair Salamat Hashim to head the united front.

Salamat was Misuari's deputy until they parted ways in 1977 because of ideological differences.

The Bangsamoro Congress issued a 16-point declaration which called for the United Nations to prevail upon the government to end its presence in Mindanao and pave the way for a UN-supervised referendum.

It also urged the Organization of Islamic Conference to "seriously address once and for all" the question of Muslims in Mindanao.

Misuari did not discount the possibility of a war in Mindanao if the MILF would convince him that war was the only option left, he said.

"I am a man of peace but sometimes we have no more choice but to listen to our brothers... there are times when the peaceful means don't count at all like in the case of the government nowadays," he said. **AFP and Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau**

CEBU PACIFIC
 FOR AS LOW AS (With 1 Nite FREE SHENZHEN Tour)
\$163 KOWLOON PANDA
\$178 RAMADA KOWLOON / IMPERIAL / B.P. INTL HOUSE
\$181 GUANDONG
 VIA CEBU PACIFIC 2 NITES IN HKG AND 1 NITE IN SHENZHEN
 EFFEC. 22 NOV 2001 TO 05 DEC 2001 (HKG/MNL)
 FOR AS LOW AS
\$171 KOWLOON PANDA
\$182 SHAMROCK / EATON
\$193 RAMADA KOWLOON / IMPERIAL / B.P. INTL HOUSE
 VIA CEBU PACIFIC FOR 4D/3N EFFEC. 22 NOV 2001 TO 05 DEC 2001 (HKG/MNL)
 FOR AS LOW AS (With 1 Nite in SHENZHEN & 1 Nite in HONGKONG)
\$535 B.P. INTL HOUSE IMPERIAL RAMADA KIN (HKG) SHUN ON HOTEL OR SIMILAR SHENZHEN COMMERCIAL BUSINESS HTL. OR SIMILAR (SHENZHEN)
 23 & 25 NOV 2001 DEPARTURES ONLY
 ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ARE ACCEPTED
WINLINK TRAVEL SERVICES, INC.
 G/F & 2/F, CDC Bldg., 1195 Ma. Oroso St., Ermita, Manila Tel. (632) 626-6306 • 622-4446 • 622-7739/41/45/48/54 Fax: (632) 624-6859

Look who's talking!
 DAVAO BRANCH (for as low as P24,500)
 CEBU BRANCH
 OPEN FOR DEALERSHIP
 Monitor your branches at the convenience of your office
 MAKATI OFFICE
 LOGISTICS OFFICE
adlib international sales inc.
 Tel.: 7212829 / 7230641 / 7276801 / 7276781
 Cebu: (032) 2834046 / 2852697
 Davao: (082) 2211118-19

100% NEW & RECON
RICOH COPIERS
 P12,000. ONLY LIQUID TYPE SAVIN 700 220 V, 60Hz
 P16,000. ONLY POWDER TYPE FT 3320 220 V, 60Hz
 P46,500. ONLY BRAND NEW DIGITAL COPIER & PRINTER 9912-A
100% GUARANTEED!
 KATUN TONERS & PARTS FOR USE IN SHARP, CANON, RICOH, MINOLTA, TOSHIBA, SELEX, MITA, GESTETNER, RISO, KOMICA, ETC.
HOW AVAILABLE! LEASE TO OWN / RENTAL (Open Mondays thru Sundays)
COPYTRADE®
 Copytrade Bldg., 550 Mt. Jackson St. Sampaoco, Manila (N. I.)
 Tels. 749-8155 to 56 • 781-3472 • 749-8216
 Prov'l Outlets: Cabanatuan (0919) 467-3223 • Cebu 253-2402
 CHEAPER REFILL INK AND CARTRIDGES FOR MOST COMPUTER PRINTER MODELS!

Manila 9 & 10 November 2001 Cebu City 11 November 2001
All the Best in Australian Education

Regency Institute
 Regency Institute is unique in that with its partnerships with Le Cordon Bleu, International College of Hotel Management (ICHM) and Swiss Hotel Association, international students can choose professional pathways through to a Masters Degree. Join Regency Institute and experience its hospitality.

Careers are no longer clear-cut or simply defined. Today, one needs to be more versatile, more adaptable. When it comes to finding the course to meet your exact needs, Griffith has the answers. At Griffith, one will become part of a community of students of all ages from more than 75 countries and from all backgrounds.

University of Canberra
 UC is a cosmopolitan Australian university in a world whose boundaries are diminishing everyday. The combination of high quality programs, a beautiful campus and location in the Australian capital attracts students worldwide. It sets out to prepare people for professional careers and its teaching reflects commitment to professional practice at every level.

With students from 90 different countries, Curtin is an outstanding international university. It has established a world-wide reputation as a dynamic and stimulating place of learning. The excellence of the teaching is reflected in the high standard of the graduates whose level of employment rates exceed the national average.

EXHIBITION AND SEMINAR INFORMATION

MANILA*
 Exhibition:
 Ballroom 3
 Dusit Hotel Nikko
 Ayala Center, Makati City
 Friday, 09 November 2001
 11:00AM - 5:00PM
 7:30PM - 9:00PM
 Saturday, 10 November 2001
 9:00AM - 4:00PM
 Seminar:
 Dusit Hotel Nikko
 Ayala Center, Makati City
 Friday, 09 November 2001
 6:00PM - 7:30PM
CEBU*
 Exhibition:
 Function Room 2
 Waterfront Hotel
 Lahug, Cebu City
 Sunday, 11 November 2001
 9:00AM - 2:00PM
 3:30PM - 5:00PM
 Seminar:
 Waterfront Hotel
 Lahug, Cebu City
 2:00PM - 3:30PM
 *PLEASE BRING CERTIFIED TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS, DIPLOMA AND RESUME

Education Australia
 G/F Salustiana Dee Ty Tower
 Paseo de Roxas
 Legaspi Village
 Makati City
 Tel Nos: 8160755 • 7546281 • 7546277
 7546230 • 7546229
 Fax No: 8159875
 email: info@manila.idp.edu.au

WANTED
YELLOW DIAMONDS
3ct AND LARGER
INTERNATIONAL BUYERS
PAY CASH
NOVEMBER 12 - 15, 2001
 For Appointment call
0919-7096616
DEALERS WELCOME

DON'T DROP-OUT BECAUSE OF THE CRISIS!
ENROLL NOW!
International Academy of Management and Economics (I/AME)
The International School of Management & Economics
 With supportive and facilitative core values in I/AME's corporate culture, you'll surely obtain your college degree and diploma.
 For employment in U.S. or elsewhere in the world or for further graduate studies in leading U.S. universities - Wharton, Harvard, Columbia, Yale, UCLA, Georgetown, Fordham, etc. - enroll in our credit-rated Bachelor's degree program with Excelsior College of Albany, New York.
 Outcome: I/AME degree and diploma plus Excelsior College degree and diploma equals 2 degrees and diplomas in 1 joint program.
 FINANCING AVAILABLE THROUGH CITIBANK LIFE, APPLY NOW AT REGISTRAR'S OFFICE
 For inquiries, please call us at telephone numbers: 896-2334 (trunkline) loc. 12/16/26 or call 896-2350/58 or better yet fill up the necessary information below and mail/fax it back to us at Fax No.: 896-2351/61 E-mail: iame@pacific.net.ph
 The Registrar
 International Academy of Management & Economics (I/AME)
 1061 Metropolitan Ave., San Antonio Village, Makati City
 Name: _____ Tel. No./Cellphone No./Fax No.: _____
 Address: _____
 I am interested in enrolling in: (Please send me more information)
☐ Diploma in Management ☐ Masters in Business Administration
☐ BS in Business Administration ☐ Ph.D. in Management
 PDI

Palace: It's Gloria's right to extend Mendoza term

BY CARLITO PABLO

MALACANANG officials yesterday defended President Macapagal-Arroyo's statement that she might extend the term of office of Philippine National Police Chief Leandro Mendoza in the face of criticisms and warnings of restiveness in police ranks.

Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo said Ms Macapagal would be acting well within her powers if she should decide not to retire Mendoza in March and extend his tour of duty.

"That is the prerogative which the Constitution and law give to the President," Romulo said in the first press conference he has given in the President's absence.

In the same press conference, Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao contended that the PNP was not governed by the same rules of succession as the Armed Forces.

No military post

"The post of PNP chief is not a military post. It is a civilian post," Tiglao said.

In the AFP, promotions to the next higher rank or position are governed by certain rules, such as one's place in the so-called "table of organization."

"Like in any civilian post, it is up to the President whether to continue having somebody in that post," Tiglao said.

Romulo also belied reports of the alleged demoralization sweeping the PNP ranks.

Romulo said reports from Mendoza as well as his designated successor, Deputy Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., indicate that the entire PNP was solid and strongly behind the government.

"What is important is that we continue our drive for peace and order in this country and for the police to be able to do their job," Romulo said.

As controversy grew over the issue of the Mendoza term extension, Ebdane yesterday released a statement reiterating his support for Mendoza.

No other chief

"There is only one PNP chief, and I take my orders from him as DCA of the PNP," Ebdane said. If Mendoza is retired as scheduled, Ebdane would assume the top PNP post in March 2002.

Ms Macapagal earlier said that even if she were to extend Mendoza's tour of duty to a full four-year term, his successor would still be Ebdane.

Ebdane said he came up with the statement to clarify a few issues, one of them being the rumored "courtship call" that newly promoted generals made on him.

"It never happened. The PNP chief was in Southern Philippines and had designated me to take on duties as his deputy as he has done so every time he has traveled out of town or out of the country," Ebdane said.

Interior Secretary Jose Lina Jr. also cited Ebdane's statement of support as proof that there was no demoralization in the PNP.

"Ebdane has stated that he is a professional police officer and a gentleman and will abide by the decision of the President," he said.

He also debunked earlier claims by Sen. Gregorio Honasan of widespread demoralization in police ranks.

"I have been in close touch with the officers and men of the PNP, and out of the 1,000 only two or three are saying they do not accept or do not welcome the President's announcement," said Lina who is also chair of the National Police Commission.

'Clear mistake'

In the Senate, Senate President Pro-tempore

Lina takes over disputed jail post

BY GERALD G. LACUARTA

WITH Chief Supt. Arturo Alit Jr. and his rival Supt. Josue Engano both claiming legal grounds to head the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology, Interior Secretary Jose Lina Jr. yesterday decided to step into the row and declared he was taking over the disputed post.

"Considering the brewing tension at the jail bureau and so as not to disrupt jail services and functions, it is imperative for me as DILG secretary to step into this issue and assert my power and authority by temporarily assuming the BJMP post," Lina said in a news conference.

Lina, in a two-page circular addressed to Alit, Engano and the BJMP personnel, said he shall administer the BJMP until controversy has been resolved by the courts or until further orders from Malacañang.

Lina's order stopped the plan of Engano to relieve 16 BJMP officers, including Metro Manila jail wardens and division heads, who snubbed a command conference he called on Nov. 5.

"No, he couldn't do that, or else he would be violating my memo," Lina said.

Lina said he shall summon Alit and Engano to give them respective assignments while the controversy remains unresolved.

Alit and Engano had recently issued separate circulars, each asserting his authority as BJMP chief after Judge Modesto Juanson of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court ruled last week that Engano's appointment on Sept. 29 was null and void.

Manuel Villar said Ms Macapagal made a "clear mistake" in making an early announcement of her plans for extending Mendoza's term.

But the President "may have her own bureaucratic style" and he respected that, Villar said.

"That all depends on the results. Whatever produces the desired results, then that's what government officials should do," he said.

Villar said the public and the PNP should be reminded that it "is not illegal to extend Mendoza's term."

But opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara warned Ms Macapagal that extending the term of favored military and police officers and annexing agencies would further bloat the already overburdened Office of the President.

"The trend in modern public leadership is to infuse fresh blood and new faces and promote a lean but efficient government and a lean and efficient Office of the President," Angara said.

He said the President was backsliding in these two areas.

The senator said the President should be carrying out bureaucratic reforms, not "governance based on the dark side of statism."

Malacañang recently ordered placed under the OP two vital agencies under the Department of Agriculture.

Moved from the DA to the OP were the Philippine Coconut Authority and the National Food Authority. Angara said these two agencies should be integral parts of the DA.

Leeway for Gloria

But Sen. Robert Barbers defended the President, saying she must be given the leeway to choose whomever she sees fit.

"It's her prerogative to extend the services not only of the PNP director general, but also of other positions of responsibility," he said. With reports from Gerald G. Lacuarta, Cynthia D. Balana, Rocky Nazareno and Luige del Puerto

Diamonds

We are BUYING loose DIAMONDS and BIG DIAMOND JEWELRIES Any Quantity! Any Quality! Above I care to say size! Confidential and confidential are promised! Feel SAFE. Have NO RISK. Get CASH Payment!

- We can help you reduce your items.
- Special arrangement for regular suppliers.
- Optional: High-Tension Value for Diamonds.

Diamond Sources Pawnshop, Inc. is a related company to one of the biggest diamond exporters in the world. Therefore, Diamond Sources has the best suit for your diamonds and will be able to pay you high price for your diamonds!

GET THE MAXIMUM VALUE FOR YOUR DIAMONDS! SELL TO US!

Big and VERY BIG transactions are most welcome.

Diamond Sources Pawnshop, Inc. Monday - Friday Tel. 635-2816 (CPI Member) By Appointment Tel. 635-9822-72
Hanging Branch Tel. 635-9822-72
111 EDSA Mandaluyong City E-mail: dsources@netnet.com

A Timely Gift Suggestion

Personalized Wall Clocks from CAMEL Appliances. Names and Company logos can be printed for personal and corporate give-aways. Truly a perfect gift suggestion this holiday season.

For inquiries pls. call: 241-1426/241-5287/88 & 93

ISO 9002 Certified. **CAMEL** since 1977

AUTOMATIC GARAGE DOOR WITH REMOTE CONTROL

RAGELI CORPORATION

Showroom: #10 Norway Street
Better Living Subdivision, Parañaque
Tel. Nos. 776-2322; 823-8601
MARTIN DOORS-GENIE-U.S.A.

The Closest Thing to Natural Hearing

PHONAK Claro™

The world's first virtual ear

- Digital Perception Processing (DPP)™. Performs the function of the cochlea, performing 500 million calculations/second.
- Auto Select™. Monitors the acoustic environment and automatically selects the appropriate hearing program.
- Fine-scale Noise Canceller™. Continuously analyzes the Speech-to-Noise Ratio in 20 bands.
- Adaptive digital AudioZoom™. Automatically locates and suppresses the strongest noise source around.

25% off
on Claro 21 - In the EAR
Oct. 26 to Nov. 30, 2001



MANILA HEARING AID CENTER, INC.

The First Truly Accredited Hearing Center - Approved by the Phil. Society/Board of Otolaryngology - HNS

23 Years of Advanced Hearing Technology

QUEZON AVENUE 24 QUEZON AVENUE, QUEZON CITY TEL. NO. 712-3030/12-3023 • MAKATI 3RD FLOOR, MERCURY DRUG, QUAD 3, AYALA MALL ENTRANCE, AYALA CENTER (JOLIVET) TEL. NO. 817-2768/894-3488 • CUBAO GROUND FLOOR, FIESTA CARMINAL (IN FRONT OF RUSTAN'S), CUBAO, QUEZON CITY TEL. NO. 911-1528 • TAFT 4TH FLOOR, MANILA ASTRAL TOWER, CORNER TAFT AVENUE & P. FAURA, ERMITA MANILA TEL. NO. 821-6726 • SM CITY ANNEX LOWER GROUND (BEHIND SM WORKSHOP) TEL. NO. 824-2431 • SM MEGAMALL 5TH FLOOR, BUILDING A TEL. NO. 633-8039

Per DTNCR Permit No. 3702, Series of 2001

VERY AFFORDABLE!

CONDO

READY FOR OCCUPANCY
Near Araneta Ave. cor E. Rodriguez St., Quezon City
Perfect 2nd Home for Provincianos w/ Students or Business in Manila
1 or 2 Bdrms!
2 levels
Very Easy Payments!
Flexible Downpayment!
Discount on Spot Cash!
1.1M 44SQM
413-37-89
414-95-04

BAD BREATH

Now, no more reason to endure what we can easily cure!
As a leading dental clinic, we are aware how painfully embarrassing it is to have a bad breath, so we exhausted all means to be able to come up with a sure cure for it.
First, we use HALIMETER apparatus, a unique bacteria locator, then we apply the most effective patented medication & treatment.
Succeeding treatments are FREE! Regain your confidence!
TEETH BLEACHING also available
Suite #224 Atrium Bldg., Makati Ave., Makati City
Tel. No. 811-4071 • 752-4735



MENDOZA

Learn to communicate effectively & pave your way to success with...

MD LANGUAGE EXPERTS

Speech Plus CONSULTANCY & DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Visit us anytime during office hours for FREE EVALUATION.

For more inquiries:
Rm.401-A, Delta Bldg., West Avenue, Q.C.
Tel. Nos.: 374-4853 / 374-4855 / 371-3738
Cell No.: 0919-8533406

- CONVERSATIONAL ENGLISH
- PRACTICAL GRAMMAR
- SPEECH IMPROVEMENT
- PUBLIC SPEAKING
- BUSINESS WRITING
- EXPRESSIVE WRITING
- BROADCASTING
- PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT
- ENTREPRENEURSHIP
- FOREIGN LANGUAGES
- CORPORATE TRAINING
- PRIVATE TUTORIAL
- COACHING SERVICES

travelling in appreciation of GOD's beautiful & bountiful creations

4 Days SYDNEY US\$ 589.00	4 Days SEEDU US\$ 549.00	6 Days HOLYLAND US\$ 1,240.00 Nov 15-23	4D/3N HONG KONG 4D/3N w/ full day Zhenzhen \$279.00 4D/3N w/ 1 nite Zhenzhen \$283.00 4D/3N w/ 1 nite Macau \$279.00
4 Days MELBOURNE US\$ 597.00	3 Days SAIGON US\$ 378.00	6 Days HONG KONG US\$ 1,290.00	
8 Days SYDNEY & GOLD COAST US\$ 883.00	6 Days BEIJING CHINA US\$ 599.00	3 Days BORACAY P 3,186.00	3 Days PALAWAN Buy 2 Take 1 Free P 3,025.00

PIRKKO & TROY TOURS, INC.
A7B Ave., Cor. Gen. St., Ormaetia, Pasig City
Tel. 688-9658 • 688-8846 • 681-2694 Fax 688-8846
E-mail: toymartinfo@com.ph

PC BODEGA

Guaranteed Brand New Components On Sale!

www.pcbodega.com.ph Order Online

P4 RETAILATION Pentium 4 1.5 GHz Via Chipset Mboard, 128MB Memory 32MB Riva TNT2 4X 32bit AudioCard 40GB 5400rpm HDD, 52X CD-Drive 1.44MB FDD, 14" Monitor, 180W speaker 500W AVR 56k modem INTERNET READY P27,500	ARMADA GAMEMASTER Pentium III 866 Mhz Via Chipset Mboard, 256MB SDRAM GeForce2 MX 32MB, 32bit AudioControl 40GB 5400rpm HDD, 1.44MB FDD 17" Monitor, 180W speaker, 550W AVR 10100mbps NIC INTERNET READY P27,500	PCB HOME OFFICE Pentium III 850 Mhz Via Chipset Mboard, 128MB SDRAM 32MB Riva TNT2 4X 32bit AudioControl 40GB 5400rpm HDD, 52X CD-Drive 1.44MB FDD, 14" Monitor, 180W speaker 500W AVR, 56k modem INTERNET READY P25,400
--	--	--

Seagate 40GB...\$400pm...4,450
Seagate 40GB...\$200pm...5,800
Canon BJC-1000sp P 2,200
Epson Stylus 580 P 3,500
128MB PC133 SDRAM...1,100
256MB PC133 SDRAM...1,100
40GB 5400rpm HDD...1,100
RAM PC800 SDRAM...1,100

Tel# (02) 721-4482/724-7905/724-7819 #13A Duña Juana S. Rodriguez Ave. New Manila Q.C.
(Corner Aurora Blvd., Infront of Broadway Centrum)

The Feast of the very miraculous

LADY OF GUADALUPE, MEXICO

\$2,285 Dec. 10-18 Estm. Acapulco, U.S.
(supply now for U.S. visit)

GRAND TOUR of CHINA \$1,630

Beijing, Shanghai, Xian, Guilin, Hongkong

SPECIAL Arrangements: AUSTRALIA 4 days \$ 699
KUALA LUMPUR NEW ZEALAND 4 days \$ 999
1 day \$ 388 both + 3 days SINGAPORE
Bangkok Dec. 6-9/
Dec. 12-15
Macau Pilgrimage \$ 338
Christmas in BAVARIA Dec. 1-17 \$ 1,769
wonderful, world renowned!

MYANMAR, ANGKORWAT
THAILAND 9 days \$ 1,695

NORWEGIAN CRUISE
\$ 240 Best Reverts of Asia 8 days
Cebu, Boracay, Palawan, North Luzon
Dec. 26-30

Adam's EXPRESS TRAVEL
1131 Mabini cor. Flores • Tel.: 536-1736 to 37
522-3876 to 78 • 521-1638/51 / 98 • Fax: 521-2255

GENERICS

FACTORY PRICE

CASH, No Minimum Order, Money Back Guarantee

Ambrox syrup 30mg 60 ml - P19.40, Amoxi drops - P14.40, Amoxi susp. 250mg 60 ml - P20.70, Amoxi cap 500 mg 100's - P34.40, Cefix drops - P19.90, Cefix susp 250 mg 60 ml - P34.40, Cefix cap 500mg - P42.70, Cloxa susp 125 mg 60 ml - P18.80, Cloxa cap 500mg - P22.5, Co-tri susp 200/40 60 ml - P12.50, Co-tri cap 400/80 mg - P10.7, Diclofenac 10mg 60 ml - P10, Erythro lab 500mg - P683, Etham lab 400mg - P179, M.A. cap 500mg - P100, Para drops - P11.30, Para syrup 250mg 60 ml - P12.50, Para tab 500mg - P31, Rifam susp. 100mg 60 ml - P27.30, Salbu 2mg 60 ml - P10, Salbu tab 2mg - P36.30, SCMC drops 15ml - P13.10, SCMC 125mg 60 ml - P13.20, SCMC 250 mg 60 ml - P15.70, SCMC cap 500mg - P113, Terbutaline 1.5mg 60 ml - P10.70, Terbu lab 2.5 mg - P77, Vil. B 1-6-12 lab - P100, Vil. C tab 500 mg - P75.

BSES Commercial, R-210 L C Bldg. 459 Quezon Ave., Q.C.
T-4101337, 4101868 Fax 4105216

DEALERS & DISTRIBUTORS ARE WELCOME

ASTHMA NEBULIZER

- Handy & Portable
- Lightweight
- Made in Italy

P 3,800.00
U N TIL
November 15, 2001

RECORD NEBULIZER

foreastmedical.net

FAR EAST MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

SAN MEGASALL 5th Fl., Bldg. A 635-04-36	SAN FRAGILEM Basement 418-75-40	SAN NOSTH EDSS Cor Park Plaza 453-3326
SAN GOOTHMALL Basement 800-40-93	GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN Shoppesville 721-34-87	

CEB 262-32-39

SLIM, SHAPELY & SEXY at 76

Whether you want to lose 5 lbs. or 50 lbs., Marie-France can easily solve your particular fat and weight problems and re-shape your figure the way you want it. For 16 years, countless women have been able to melt away fat, firm up flab, reduce cellulite, shed off extra pounds, and maintain their slimmer shape with us. Our effortless and effective weight-loss programme offers slimming satisfaction beyond compare.

Be slim, shapely, and sexy.
Come to Marie-France now!

YOUR BODY

Are you happy with it?

Uncover Your Curves™

Marie-France

Bodyline International®

Consultations are done in private and kept confidential. All treatments are done in hygienic and private cubicles and handled professionally by trained nurses with the medical supervision of our doctors.

NOW OPEN
Mon-Fri: 8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Saturday: 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

MAKATI 816-2563 892-7631/32 812-0472 • 812-0510 Solid Mills Bldg., Delta Rosa St.	ORTIGAS 687-1216 687-1218 638-3028 Robinsons Equitable Tower, ADB Ave.	QUEZON CITY 372-6635 372-6636 410-3723 • 410-3724 Cedar Executive Bldg., Timog Ave.	BINONDO 242-2187 242-2191 243-0047 • 243-0049 Cibabank-Franchise Bldg., Alabang-Zapote Rd.	ALABANG 809-9619 850-4574 842-4533 • 842-6887 Sunshine Square Plaza	SHAW 534-5898 534-5877 717-0071 • 717-0072	CONGRESSIONAL 920-8021 920-8047 920-7675 O Plaza, Congressional Ave.	PAMPANGA 961-2981/92 860-6921/21 Dan's Marketing Bldg., McArthur Highway, San Fernando	CEBU 233-7637 233-7639 233-7641 Keppel Centre, Cebu City
---	--	---	--	---	--	--	--	--

NO EXERCISE MACHINES • NO WORKOUT CLASSES • NO PILLS OR INJECTIONS • NO HUNGER PAINS • NO MEDICATIONS • NO SURGERY

Judge fired for favoring drug queen

BY MICHAEL LIM UBAC

THE SUPREME Court has diminished Manila Regional Trial Court Judge Manuel Muro for bias toward convicted drug trafficker Yu Yuk Lai.

In a full court decision, the high court ordered Muro's dismissal, forfeited his retirement benefits and barred him from reentering the government service.

"Wherefore, for gross misconduct, Muro... is hereby ordered dismissed from the service with forfeiture of all benefits, except his accrued leave credits, and with prejudice to reemployment (in the government)," said the Tribunal.

The high court said in a 22-page decision that the order was "effective immediately upon receipt of the order."

The decision was promulgated on Oct. 17, but a copy of the order was given to reporters only yesterday.

The high court had earlier dismissed Court of Appeals Associate Justice Demetrio Demetria for intervening on Yu's behalf. It was learned that Demetria and sports patron Go Teng Kok requested the Department of Justice to go easy in prosecuting the drug queen.

So on March 28 this year, the high court ordered Demetria's dismissal for violating the Code of Judicial Conduct. The high court also forfeited his retirement benefits and likewise barred him from joining government service.

The SC said the decision of Demetria to intervene in the case of the drug queen not only made "a mockery of his high office, but also (caused) incalculable damage to the entire judiciary."

Before dismissing him, the court on Aug. 9, told Demetria to go on an indefinite leave, while Muro was indefinitely suspended.

In its latest order, the high court ordered Muro's dismissal for extending special treatment to Yu while he was hearing her case last year.

The SC said "respondent judge

opened himself to suspicion of partiality when he exhibited extraordinary leniency and indulgent attitude toward Yu Yuk Lai. Undoubtedly, (Muro) has impaired the judiciary to which he owes the duty of loyalty and obligation to keep it at all times above suspicion and worthy of the people's trust."

Yu, alias Anita Uy or Size Yu Yuk Lai, and her nephew, Kenneth Monceda, alias William Sy, were sentenced to life imprisonment on Sept. 25 for selling three kilos of shabu in 1998. Yu and Monceda are Taiwanese.

Operatives of the PNP Narcotics Special Operations Division nabbed Yu and Monceda were on Nov. 7, 1998 at the parking lot of Hotel Sofitel-Grand Boulevard. They were about to sell three kilos of shabu to a poseur-buyer, PO3 Geronimo Pastrana.

Yu was incarcerated at the Manila City Jail while her case was being heard by Muro.

On May 19, 2000, Muro granted Yu's motion to be admitted to the Manila Doctor's Hospital after she complained that she was suffering from urinary tract infection, acute vaginitis and estrogen deficiency.

She was allowed to stay at the hospital for seven days. However, on May 19, Yu asked for an extension.

On June 15, Muro granted the extension of Yu's confinement in the hospital "for a period of one month and until such time that she is fit to be discharged."

This enraged State Prosecutor Pablo Formaran III who filed an opposition to Muro's two orders. Formaran said the orders were inappropriate since Muro based his decision solely on the opinion of Yu's doctors.

On July 16, agents of the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force rearrested Yu while she was playing baccarat in one of the VIP rooms of the Casino Filipino at the Holiday Inn Manila.

She was then detained in Camp Crame. Her three custodial officers at the Manila City Jail were fired the next day.



KHALIFA

Bahrain PM here for visit

BAHRAIN'S Prime Minister Sheikh Khalifa bin Salman Al-Khalifa arrived in Manila yesterday for a two-day visit to strengthen ties and eliminate double taxation.

Malacañang said Sheikh Khalifa will visit President Macapagal-Arroyo today.

Ms Macapagal was out of the country as Sheikh Khalifa arrived. She returned later yesterday from a two-day meeting in Brunei of the 10-nation Association of Southeast Asian Nations. The two are to sign an agreement to avoid double taxation, the government said.

About 30,000 Filipinos work in Bahrain, including 10,000 housemaids as well as engineers, medical workers and hotel employees.

The prime minister was also to meet Vice President Teofisto Guingona, Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas and other officials.

Over the weekend during a visit to Thailand, Sheikh Khalifa signed agreements Saturday to boost trade and investment between the two countries and eliminate double taxation.

Sheikh Khalifa also visited Malaysia last week to sign bilateral memorandums of understanding to develop Islamic banking and finance and establish a Malaysian Trade and Distribution Center in Bahrain. AP

Sual plant boggedown causes new outage

ROTATING blackouts were still experienced in Metro Manila yesterday as the 1,200 megawatt Sual power plant in Pangasinan bogged down again.

According to Napocor's Systems Operations group, the operating units of the Sual power plant are now down, causing the unstable power generation in Luzon.

If not for the excess power reserves which totals to only 175 megawatts another major blackout is possible in the Luzon region affecting 35 million residents, according to a Napocor official.

"If we lose another plant with 100 mw and if it suddenly goes out of order, we would again be in total darkness," said the Napocor official, who requested anonymity.

Coal-fired Sual, which is owned and

managed by American firm subsidiary Mirant Philippines Corp. could not be penalized or held liable for these power blackouts as there are no provisions on its IPP contract with the government, Napocor president Jesus N. Alcorido said in another interview.

Another high-ranking Napocor official indicated that a new piece of legislation should be passed to sanction power generators and distributors, who will cause major power blackouts in the future.

He said that this provision was missed out from the Electricity Reform Law passed by Congress last June.

Mirant, which also operates the coal-fired Pagbilao power plant and other power barges for Napocor, is one of the IPPs, considered as "untouchables" in the power in-

dustry because their contracts forged with the government are on off-take arrangements.

The government will pay for the power generated by these power plants, though not fully utilized. President Macapagal-Arroyo has created a committee to review these IPP contracts, which were deemed "onerous."

These IPP contracts were signed when major blackouts occurred in the 1990s and the government opted to construct power plants through the private sector.

Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. said that though the Sunday blackout incident could also be attributed to the poor maintenance of power companies like Mirant Philippines they could not be penalized.

Enjoy up to 70% off on selected items at all branches nationwide. Hurry!

CATHAY BUILDER'S CENTER, INC.
The Largest Building Materials Network

PER DTI-NCR Permit # 2966 Series of 2001

PHILHEALTH Advisory

06-001-2001

For Employers in the Private and Government Sectors



PLEASE be advised that effective January 1, 2002, a new contribution schedule will be implemented in the payment and collection of contributions for all the employed members of the National Health Insurance Program (NHIP).

Below is the new contribution schedule to be shared equally by the employee-member and the employer:

Monthly Salary Bracket	Monthly Salary Range	Salary Base (SB)	Total Monthly Contribution	Personal Share (PS) (PS = SB x 1.25%)	Employer Share (ES) (ES = PS)	
1	P 3,499.99 and below	P 3,000.00	P 75.00	P 37.50	P 37.50	Effective January 1, 2001
2	P 3,500.00 to P 3,999.99	3,500.00	87.50	43.75	43.75	
3	P 4,000.00 to P 4,499.99	4,000.00	100.00	50.00	50.00	
4	P 4,500.00 to P 4,999.99	4,500.00	112.50	56.25	56.25	
5	P 5,000.00 to P 5,499.99	5,000.00	125.00	62.50	62.50	
6	P 5,500.00 to P 5,999.99	5,500.00	137.50	68.75	68.75	Effective January 1, 2002
7	P 6,000.00 to P 6,499.99	6,000.00	150.00	75.00	75.00	
8	P 6,500.00 to P 6,999.99	6,500.00	162.50	81.25	81.25	
9	P 7,000.00 to P 7,499.99	7,000.00	175.00	87.50	87.50	
10	P 7,500.00 to P 7,999.99	7,500.00	187.50	93.75	93.75	
11	P 8,000.00 to P 8,499.99	8,000.00	200.00	100.00	100.00	Effective January 1, 2002
12	P 8,500.00 to P 8,999.99	8,500.00	212.50	106.25	106.25	
13	P 9,000.00 to P 9,499.99	9,000.00	225.00	112.50	112.50	
14	P 9,500.00 to P 9,999.99	9,500.00	237.50	118.75	118.75	
15	P 10,000.00 and up	10,000.00	250.00	125.00	125.00	

Payment of monthly premium contributions for both public and private sector employers is on or before the 10th of the month following the applicable month through any of the 28 PhilHealth Accredited Collecting Banks (ACBs) and their branches nearest you. Failure to deduct and/or to consequently remit said contributions to the Corporation shall make the employers liable under the penal provisions of the National Health Insurance Act (Art. X, RA 7875).



Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION
Citystate Centre
709 Shaw Boulevard, Pasig City
Healthline: 637-9999 Website: www.philhealth.gov.ph

Alliance fights dumping Lecture on Advent

POLITICAL and business leaders will launch on Friday the multisectoral Fair Trade Alliance (FTA) to take up the cudgels for Philippine industries seriously threatened by unfair and predatory trade practices.

More than 100 congressmen have either signed expressed support for a resolution asking the leadership of the House of Representatives to press for the lifting of a court injunction against the Safeguard Measures Act (RA 8800).

Representatives Oscar Moreno and Etta Rosales introduced the resolution in reaction to the injunction which prevented government from implementing RA 8800. The law, which was to take effect on Aug. 9, is designed to provide safety nets to Philippine industries, like cement makers, injured by the flood of cheap imports. Even the opposition bloc in the

House led by Rep. Ronaldo Zamora of San Juan has urged Malacañang to curb the influx of goods brought here by unscrupulous importers at dumping prices. He also pledged the opposition's support to any measures that may be introduced by the Macapagal administration to protect local industries.

The congressmen's stands tend to support the call by various Philippine industries for tariff protection against injurious imports, as in the case of the Philippine Cement Manufacturers Corp. (Philcemcor) which has sought a 50 percent protective tariff.

FTA, in a press statement, said it would spearhead a campaign for measures that will defend Philippine industries against unfair and predatory trade practices, and thus save millions of Filipino jobs.

Lecture on Advent

THE SEASON of Advent and its place in Christian faith and liturgy are the subject of a two-part lecture program to be conducted by Sr. Helen Graham of the Maryknoll Missionaries on Nov. 12 and 19.

The program, "Time for Waiting, the Meaning of Advent in our Lives," will be held at the Filipinas Heritage Library on Makati Avenue in Makati City. It will include prescribed rituals and selected readings from the Bible.

A theologian and biblical scholar, Graham studied at the Jesuit School of Theology where she got her master's degree in sacred theology. She also has a master's in arts and doctorate in philosophy in theology from the Loyola School of Theology at the Ateneo de Manila University.

Macariola-Mariano, 87

MARIA "Merling" C. Macariola vda. de Mariano of Babatngon, Leyte, widow of Ramon G. Mariano and mother of former INQUIRER opinion editor Dan Mariano, died Tuesday morning at age 87.

She is survived by her children Mandy and Mimi, Pen and Michael van der Most, Chit Robertson-Mudie and Dan and Tess; grandchildren Diwi, John-John, Toto, Maydie and Tony Torralba, Ariel, Arthur and Yen and Ogie and great grandchildren Nicole, Miguel and Angel.

Her body lies at Chapel 7, South Wing, Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment is scheduled for Sunday, Nov. 11, at Himalayang Pilipino after a 10 a.m. Mass at the Sto. Niño de Leyte Shrine, Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City.



Department of Agrarian Reform
Adjudication Board (DARAB)

Annex Bldg., DAR Control Office Cmpd., Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City

NOTICE TO PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given that a decision in DARAB Case No. 2999 (Reg. Case No. 0011-91), entitled **FELIX CU versus SPS. BIENVENIDO FLORES, MARCELO RAMOS, FAUSTO A. ANGELES, HILARIA GUTIERREZ and CONCEPCION TATEL GUTIERREZ** was promulgated by the DAR Adjudication Board, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City on January 19, 2000.

Counsels and parties to this case, particularly Hilaria Gutierrez and Concepcion Tatel Gutierrez whose last known address were in Brgy. Pinugay, Baras, Rizal but recently reported to have resided at Valenzuela, Metro Manila, are hereby advised to get a copy of the said decision from the DARAB Secretariat, DAR Adjudication Board, Diliman, Quezon City. After the lapse of thirty (30) days from the date of publication of this notice, without any motion for reconsideration or appeal being filed, an Entry of Judgment shall be made and the decision to this case shall become final and executory.

November 5, 2001, Diliman, Quezon City.

Acting Executive Director
DARAB Secretariat

November 7 & 14, 2001 - Inquirer

PCGG: No stopping Imelda from buying seized gems

BY DONNA S. CUETO

THE PRESIDENTIAL Commission on Good Government has admitted that it would not be able to prevent the Bureau of Customs from selling Imelda Marcos' seized jewelry back to her if the auction of the Roumeliotis' jewelry collection would be held here.

PCGG commissioner for legal matters Ruben Carranza said that if the Department of Justice would decide to allow the auction of the Roumeliotis collection here, the PCGG would have no role at all in the auction.

Carranza said that the PCGG would not be able to stop the Bureau of Customs from accepting bids from Imelda Marcos herself or from Marcos dummies.

"You cannot prevent them. At that point, there's not much we can do," Carranza explained.

He said that the situation would be different if the DOJ would rule on a joint auction of the Roumeliotis jewelry, together with the Honolulu and Malacañang jewelry collections, outside the Philippines to be handled by professional auctioneers like

Christie's of New York and Sotheby's of London.

This way, the PCGG would have a say on the guidelines for the auction. The proceeds could also be shared between the PCGG and the Bureau of Customs.

If the auction would be done here, the BOC could itself handle the auction proceedings.

After two failed biddings, the BOC could even enter into a negotiated sale.

"Legally, we will not have any role," Carranza explained on the event that the auction would be done here.

The PCGG believed that selling the jewelry collection abroad would generate more interests, and would get the highest possible amount.

No less than PCGG chair Haydee Yorac has raised these concerns to Customs commissioner Titus Villanueva in a letter dated Aug. 29 this year.

"PCGG just wants to put on record several serious concerns. The Commission's proposal to hold public auction of the Roumeliotis collections together with the Honolulu and Malacañang jewelry collections is to ensure a good price and better proceeds for the government," she said.



An Invitation To A

PILGRIMAGE TO MACAU

4 Days

DEPARTURE: Dec 8, 2001

Fr. DOMIE GUZMAN, S.S.P.
Pilgrimage Chaplain

EXECUTIVE RESOURCES, INC.
INTERNATIONAL PILGRIMAGE COORDINATORS

Lower lobby, Century Park Hotel, P. Ocampo Sr., Malate, Manila
Call Tess, Nora or Jajang • Tel. Nos. 5238581, 5214156
FAX 5260126 • E-mail: pilgrimage@execres.com.ph
DOT-225-2000

IATA PTAA



"Mercedes-Benz is a trademark of DaimlerChrysler."

Expect more from the Vito.

► The range of engine output ratings clearly sets the Vito apart from its competitors. In fact, everything you don't expect from a diesel engine comes with the engine's remarkable properties. A high torque of 250 Nm at 1600-2400 rpm is achieved even at low speeds. Acceleration is impressive, and even overtaking on an incline is not a problem.

► Despite all this power, the CDI engine consumes significantly less fuel, with an average of 13.3 kms/liter. Better yet, not only is the engine cleaner, it is also quieter, with low pollutant emissions.

► You need space? The Vito offers plenty of room and freedom to move for all passengers, with sufficient luggage space. And with an improved seating arrangement as an option, passengers are assured of a comfortable ride.

► Looks? Simply striking with its more attractive exterior design. The new painted bumpers and mirrors and a decorative stripe are real eye-catchers whenever the Vito's on the road.

► Interiors? The Vito has an ergonomic cockpit with automatic transmission and a practical dash-mounted joystick shifting lever so your eyes stay on the road.

► Well, of course, you can always expect more from a Mercedes-Benz. Find out when you test-drive the Vito at your nearest dealer!

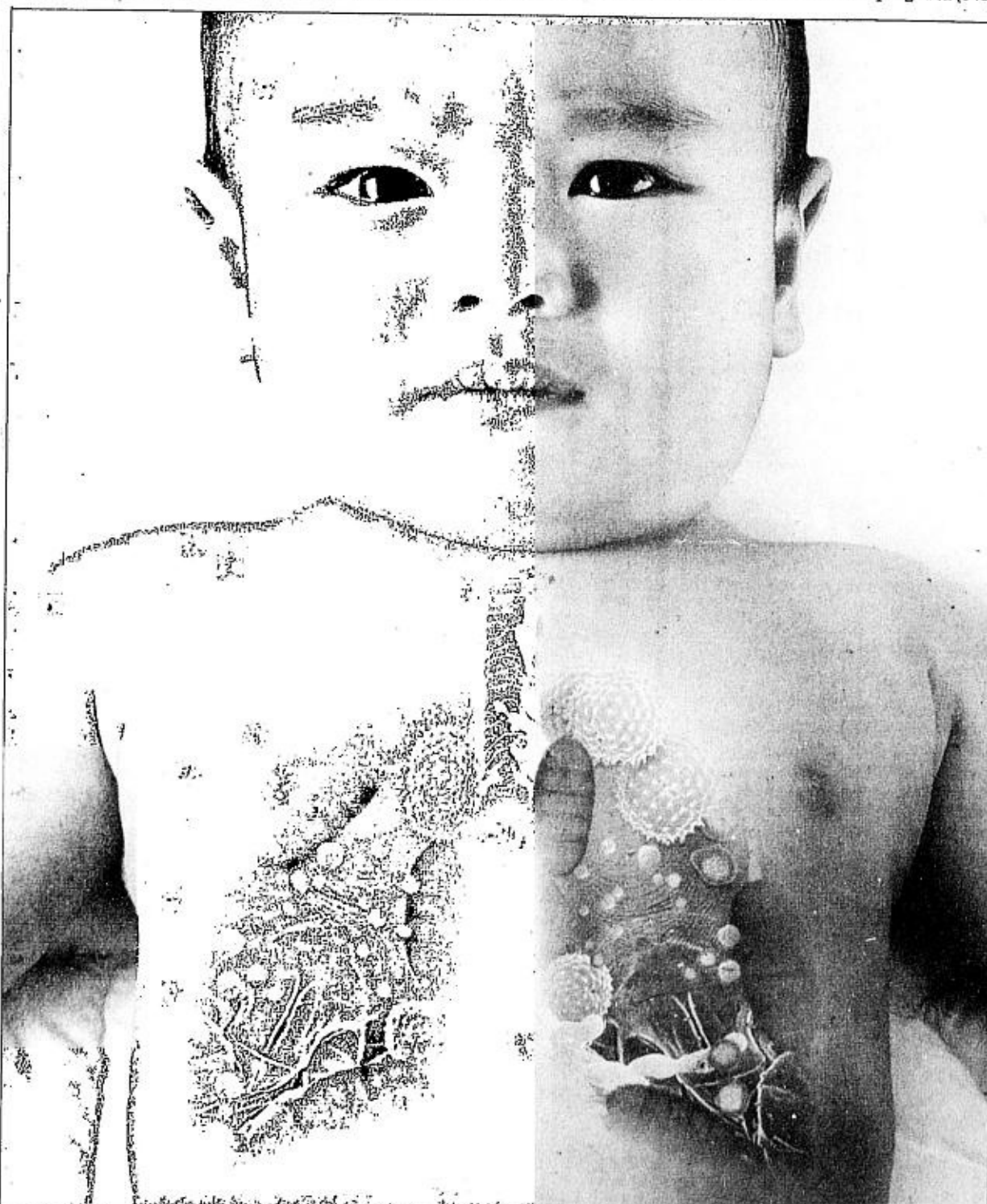


Mercedes-Benz

The future of the automobile

COMMERCIAL MOTORS CORP. Mercedes Ave., San Miguel, Pasig City Tel 641-9866; 641-9867; 641-2286; 641-2290 Fax 641-7367; 641-2287 • BRANCHES • Baloy, Cagayan de Oro City Tel (08822) 732509 • Mc Briones Highway, Bo. Maguikay, Mandanae City Tel (032) 345-1250 Fax (032) 346-2772 • Km 11, Sasa, Davao City Tel (082) 235-2495 Fax (082) 235-2494 • McArthur Highway, Calasiao, Pangasinan Tel (075) 517-2513; (075) 517-5317 Telefax (075) 522-0783 • DEALERS • CATS MOTORS INC. Greenhills 1008 Edsa, Greenhills, San Juan, Metro-Manila Tel. Nos. 723-5808 to 12/727-0181 to 85 Fax Nos. 726-7741/721-1079 • EUROPHIL MOTORS CORPORATION 5566 South Superhighway cor. Finlandia, Makati City. Tel. Nos. 844-3438/844-4132/843-4185 Fax No. 844-6794 • COMMERCIAL AUTO SALES SERVICE CORPORATION (CASSCOR) 2256 Pasong Tamo cor. EDSA, Makati City Tel 840-4396; 840-4397 Fax 812-3622 • TRANSCOR MOTORS INC. Araneta st. Singkang Bacolod City. 6100 Tel. (034) 435-0221 to 23; (034) 433-0331; (034) 435-3593 to 94 Fax. (034) 433-0330 • TRANSCOR MOTORS INC. Sen Benigno Aquino Ave., (Diversion Rd.) Iloilo City 5000 Tel. (033) 320-0952; (033) 320-0567 Fax. (033) 320-0536 • AUTOLAND SALES 1616 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City Tel. Nos. 926-0156; 928-2532 Telefax 922-3108 • AUTOLAND SALES Dau-Dau Pampanga Tel. (045) 332-3342; (045) 332-3343 Telefax (045) 332-3341

www.mercedes-benz-phil.com



INDOOR AIR IS NOT AS CLEAN AS YOU THINK

Dust, pollen, plant and mold spores, and even bacteria can re-circulate in your home. A recent study by the Environmental Protection Agency says that the air we breathe at home may be two to five times, and occasionally, 100 times more polluted than the air we breathe outdoors. This could lead to health problems including asthma, severe chest pains, chronic bronchitis, shortness of breath, and even premature death. One way to reduce and control indoor pollution is to use Filtrete™ Aircon Filter with your air conditioning unit. Unlike ordinary screen filters, Filtrete™ Aircon Filter has electrostatic fibers that effectively attract and trap these microparticles. So you and your family breathe only cool, clean, and healthy air.



3M Innovation

Sleepless in Seattle: Gov't didn't care

(From page A1)

Although they were subsequently cleared by the Americans of their supposed terrorist links, they were still deported the next day because they did not have exit plane tickets.

Their employer in Nigeria provided them with only a one-way ticket to the States. There, they were supposed to attend a three-day "simulation recurrency training" in a Kansas flying school as a requisite for their job in Nigeria. After the training, they were supposed to fly to Nigeria to assume

their new jobs.

Interview

In an interview with the INQUIRER yesterday, Come asked government authorities to help him clear his name so he could find work as a pilot to raise his family.

He and wife, Mary Anne, live in a low-cost housing unit in Balibago, Sta. Rosa, Laguna, where they run a small sari-sari store and an electronics repair shop.

The couple has four daughters—the eldest is 9, the youngest is only a year-old.

"I badly need a job. I hope the DFA will help in my re-application," he said.

Come is a graduate of a flying school in Manila and underwent training at Philippine Airlines.

He said that he was not going to file any suit and that he just wanted to remind Philippine authorities of their duties so that other Filipinos abroad need not undergo what he and Crisostomo did.

Come's mother, Esperanza, said she was shocked and angered by her son's experience in Seattle.

Esperanza Come, 73, told the INQUIRER that she and members of her household learned about her son's ordeal on the evening news on Monday.

"Look grandma, it's Tito Wels on TV," her 9-year-old granddaughter, Jeannie, told her.

Esperanza Come lives in Libjoc, Tiwi, Albay, but the INQUIRER chanced upon her in Tabaco City at the residence of Wel's father-in-law, Pablo Rodriguez Jr.

Esperanza Come said a flight attendant might have overheard her son and Crisostomo talking in Tagalog about the terrorist and anthrax attacks in America.

"The stewardess might have suspected something and informed the pilot, who in turn called up authorities in America about possible suspected terrorists in the flight," she said.

Another theory

But Come's father-in-law had another theory.

"I was told that somebody in Manila was jealous of his professional accomplishments so (the tipster) made up stories to strike him (Come) where it really hurt," Rodriguez said in Bicolano.

Rodriguez said he learned of the incident only on Monday after reading the INQUIRER.

"I think he should be given an opportunity to clear his name, his profession and maybe even his country from this malicious accusation (that he was a terrorist). Otherwise, it will kill him and his family if he loses face and his profession," Rodriguez said.

"I pity my granddaughters," he added. It seemed that even until yesterday, the only government official interested in Come and Crisostomo was Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit.

Dayrit said the DOH was going to get in touch with the two pilots.

He said the DOH wanted to find out if Come and Crisostomo knew anything about anthrax—as well as where the false information that led to their detention came from. *With a report from Armand Nocum*

Erap treatment only in US—doctor

(From page A1)

ter, was dated July 20, 2001. It bore his purported signature, letterhead and clinic address at 2970 Hilltop Mall Rd., Suite 103, Richmond, California, and phone numbers.

In a phone interview with the Inquirer last night, Estrada said Mow wrote the medical bulletin in California and faxed it to him.

He claimed that when Mow last examined him in June, he asked the doctor whether the operation could be done here.

"But he said that apart from the lack of medical equipment, members of his medical staff were afraid to come here because of the travel advisory warning foreigners (to be careful in view of) the rampant kidnappings," Estrada said.

Estrada lawyer Raymund Fortun said they had yet to petition the Sandiganbayan on the matter.

The deposed president, who is being tried by the anti-graft court for plunder and the lesser charge of perjury, himself promised that he would not try to escape if allowed to leave the Philippines for medical treatment.

"I have no plans to escape and I will face all the charges that have been filed against me," he said yesterday over radio station dzBB.

But in Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo's personal opinion, Estrada can avail himself of the expertise of Filipino doctors and does not have to go abroad for medical treatment.

"We are not wanting in facilities and doctors. We have the best doctors in the world," Romulo said, adding that even foreigners needing expert help were seeking out Filipino doctors.

Romulo also pointed out that President Macapagal-Arroyo had earlier said the issue was a judicial matter that should be decided by the Sandiganbayan.

Estrada has conceded that Filipino doctors could treat his eye problem. But the case of his knees is different, he has said.

To this, Romulo said: "That, of course, will be evaluated by the court." Romulo also noted that during his long rule, Ferdinand Marcos brought in doctors from abroad whenever he needed additional medical care.

Deterioration

In the bulletin, Mow said Estrada had been his patient since 1998 and had been afflicted with osteoarthritis in both knees.

"His condition has slowly deteriorated in the time of observation," Mow said, adding that he last examined Estrada on June 25 at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City.

He said Estrada was to have undergone knee surgery in September 2000, but that this was canceled "due to circumstances of the patient's occupation."

He also said the procedure had been planned several times in the last three years.

"It is also highly recommended that surgery best be performed in the United States, because of the latest equipment and implants that are available," Mow said. "Certain specialized prostheses and equipment are likely to be required due to the severity of the



IN PAIN? Estrada needs replacement surgery on both knees. JOAN BONDOC

condition. These materials are currently not available in the Philippines."

But Dr. Joseph M. Carabeo of the health group Code Red for Good Governance said Estrada's condition involved "no real emergency."

"The real motive (for his request for permission to seek treatment abroad) is his desperate search for sanctuary rather than a cure for his illnesses, which in fact are readily available even in our government hospitals," Carabeo said in a statement.

He said Estrada's "latest medical ploy...to merit another leave from detention is utterly pathetic."

Carabeo said the National Orthopedic Hospital had already conducted "diagnostic arthroscopy," a minor surgical procedure to examine the knee joint, and even knee replacement.

He said that private hospitals such as the St. Luke's Medical Center, Makati Medical Center and Capitol Medical Center were other options, and that a US-based orthopedic surgeon had also set up a Philippine Orthopedic Institute, which had its own manufacturing plant for knee and other joint prostheses in Laguna.

Challenge

In a statement, PMP spokesperson Jesus Crispin Remulla challenged the Church to "match (its) preaching about compassion by calling on the government to heed Mr. Estrada's request."

Remulla also said that "if only for humanitarian reasons and Sandiganbayan Associate Justice Anacleto Badoy's admission of his strict (adherence) to the Christian faith," Estrada's request "should be given due course."

But Code Red's Carabeo assailed Estrada and his wife, Sen. Luisa Ejercito, who first raised the request for his checkup and treatment in the United States.

Carabeo said the fact that Ejercito made the request while serving as vice chair of the Senate committee on health "smacks of colonialism, elitism and double standard, and is a sheer insult to our excellent breed of doctors."

He also said the costs of Estrada's planned checkup and treatment could finance a year's operation of the National Orthopedic Hospital. *With reports from Carlito Pablo, AFP*

19 - 24 NOVEMBER 2001

Overview

The Project Development and Management Course for Local Governments seek to present basic functional and organizational skills in project development and management customized for local governments. It diverts from traditional project management courses by also emphasizing value-based decision making as a basis for a more integrative process of analysis. The course is designed to strengthen competencies and improve choices in projects for local government implementation in response to current demands of poverty reduction in the face of dwindling resources. As a whole, the program is an opportunity for the participants to broaden and deepen their understanding of approaches and systems as they relate to the whole process of development and local governance.

How You Will Benefit

As a participant in this course, you will:

- Understand the diverse aspects of project development and management both at the operating and policy-making levels;
- Enhance your competency in integrating and processing various information necessary for project development and management;
- Identify and assess feasible and viable projects for implementation given specific development opportunities and problems; and
- Sort out personal experiences in project development and management through a healthy exchange of ideas with other participants resulting in better understanding of success.



*The program will include a visit to a project development site in Laguna.

For brochures, application materials, and more information, please look for Roy Choco or Maricel de Guzman at 890-5695, 729-6869 or 899-7691 to 96 locals 2402 / 2403.

DEADLINE OF APPLICATIONS IS ON
NOVEMBER 14, 2001

☐ Yes, I am interested. Please reserve a slot for me.

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Position: _____

E-mail: _____

Tel. No. _____ Fax No. _____

Please Fax to: 890-5695

Get
50% OFF!
on Face treatment

My secret?

I'm such a baby with my "Skin care godmother". Tita Nora, as I call her & together with her lovely daughters made sure I had perfect skin since age 13.

Susan
Susan Lozada
ACTRESS / TV PERSONALITY



Beauty and
Skin Care Authority
**nora
dela
rosa**
Since 1972



Learn more about our
Products. Visit us today

MAIN CLINIC: G/F, 427 Martinez St., Mandaluyong City
Tels. 532-2115 / 534-2671
Clinic Hours: Mon to Fri 10AM to 8PM, Sat 9AM to 6PM
US BRANCH: 10041 Lampson Ave., Gardengrove,
California, 92840 Tel. (714) 530-3124

Bye, Bye Mimeo.

Hello RISO!

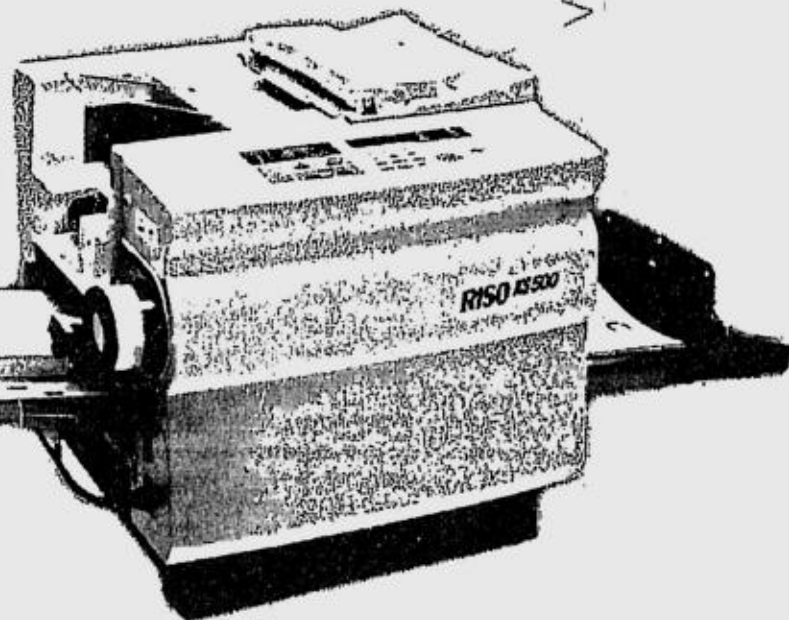
Introducing
KS500

Only
P 98,800

RISO

World's Leading Digital Duplicator

Trade-In
your mimeographing machine,
copier or digital duplicator (working or
defective) for RISO KS500 and enjoy extra
savings of **P10,000.**



With Riso KS500 you can:

- ✓ Be assured of clean, clear & good print always. No more dirty and unreadable copies.
- ✓ Be in full control of your mimeographing and printing requirements.
- ✓ Print only what you need only when you need it.
- ✓ Be Independent! Because anyone can operate the KS500, you don't have to depend on a skilled operator.
- ✓ Have more time to prepare materials (e.g. school newspaper) and print them out fresh compared to when you get it done by a printing press.
- ✓ Print pictures, graphs and illustrations that were not possible with the mimeo machines.
- ✓ Print back-to-back without compromising quality and at the same time, reduce your paper cost by half.

Yet with all these outstanding benefits, the RISO KS500 comes at a price that is even lower than some brand new mimeographing machines. Riso's long experience and advanced manufacturing technology is the secret behind this astonishingly low price.

In short, with the RISO KS500 MIMEOGRAPHING IS OBSOLETE!

We are glad to serve you better with our transfer to our new office at the:

Copylandia Corporate Center

718 Burnatay Street (near City Hall) 1550 Mandaluyong City

where we have integrated all of our services under one roof—
from machine and consumable sales, to technical service,
equipment warehouse & showroom.

EXCLUSIVELY DISTRIBUTED BY
COPYLANDIA
OFFICE SYSTEMS CORPORATION

Call Nina @ 7476-888

NATIONWIDE BRANCH NETWORK

MANILA 7476-888 ANGELES 887-2500 BACOLOD 435-9311 BUTUAN 342-5121
CEBU 222-8520 CAGAYAN DE ORO 857-4249 DAVAO 224-0702
DUMAGUETE 225-4409 ILOILO 221-0100 LOS BANCOS 506-5008
NAGA 1007-2110 NUSA TACLOBAN 524-7030 TAGBILARAN 245-3431 ZAMBOANGA 991-2400

Impeachment rap filed vs Desierto

(From page A1)

In a phone interview last night with the *INQUIRER*, Desierto said the impeachment complaint against him was part of a "well-funded demolition job" aimed at "all the institutions" involved in Estrada's plunder trial.

"I expected this kind of dirty maneuvering since we started investigating the cases," he said, adding that Francisco's allegations were "fabricated."

Moreno said he first met Francisco last year, when the lawyer was representing former Tourism Secretary Antonio Gonzalez in a case involving the Mondragon Leisure and Resorts Corp.

But it was only some three weeks ago that Francisco sought his help regarding the impeachment com-

Ombudsman had subpoenaed the BSA for bank documents, and Roxas had asked Calimlim and the NBI to defer the investigations.

Gift

Francisco said Desierto formed a panel on May 20, 1997, to look into the scam.

He said he and Roxas had thought of approaching Desierto next. He said they had initially intended to approach Willie Villarama, Desierto's chief of staff, on the suggestion of Susan Ople Osorio, who was handling Roxas' public relations. But eventually, he said, he was able to contact a certain Fernando Timbol in Desierto's office.

Francisco quoted Timbol as saying that Desierto had agreed to help them. He said Timbol suggested giving the Ombudsman "a gift that he would not forget."

Timbol allegedly told Francisco that Desierto needed chargers, batteries and other parts and accessories for a video recorder to cover the Ombudsman's activities.

Francisco said that on Aug. 26, 1997, he met with Timbol at a Sony sales office in Makati and bought the accessories worth P273,000.

He said he met soon after with Desierto and that the latter told him to thank Roxas for the gift.

Francisco also said that Timbol suggested giving Desierto "good-will money," and that Roxas and the Ombudsman met on Sept. 10, 1997, at a room in the Westin Philippine Plaza.

It was there that Roxas gave Desierto money P500,000 in a plastic shopping bag, Francisco said.

He said the next time Timbol called was to ask for additional parts for the video recorder.

Francisco said that he filed the complaint out of "disgust and frustration, especially after Edsa 2."

"I know him (Desierto)," he told the *INQUIRER*. "I know it's the worst hypocrisy that the one prosecuting Estrada for corruption is guilty of corruption."

Francisco said Roxas did not know that he has made this move. But he said Roxas could not deny his story.

He said he prepared his complaint against Desierto only last April.

Demolition

Desierto said his office, the Department of Justice, and even the Sandiganbayan were subject of the "well-organized" demolition campaign.

"In the end, all these things are understandable because all the institutions now involved in the investigation and trial of Estrada et al. had lately been subjected to demolition," he said, adding:

"I'm sure (Francisco) can't prove (his allegations). But why is he the one complaining when he is not the one who has personal knowledge (of the alleged bribery attempt)? Why did his client not institute the complaint? In all probability, his client will not confirm it."

Desierto said he had checked the records of the Office of the Ombudsman and found that it had not investigated Roxas or the BSA.

"There has never been any case filed against Roxas, so I find the allegations funny," he said. "It is absurd because Roxas does not have any case before the Ombudsman. There was no case, so how can we delay any investigation?"

Desierto said Francisco was dragging in the names Villarama and Timbol: "I hope these people will not go after him."

He said his officials were contemplating filing a case for corruption of public officials against Francisco, based on the lawyer's own admission.

Desierto also said his office investigated a case involving the payment of taxes made by Petron to some customs officials.

"But the checks were diverted to customs personnel and deposited in a bank," he said. "My office never investigated the banks. The Fact-finding and Investigation Bureau and the Evaluation and Preliminary Investigation Bureau actually filed a case versus the customs officials and Rodolfo Gonzales, who became a congressman in 1998 up to 2001. The case is now pending with the Sandiganbayan."

Desierto said Francisco was "known as an emotionally unstable lawyer."

"That's why he was fired by Accra, and (according to) private prosecutors and Justice Undersecretary Dennis Villanueva, he is facing a disbarment case with the Supreme Court," Desierto said.



DESIERTO: Well-funded demolition job aimed at all the institutions involved in Estrada's trial.

HOMEMADE FOODSTUFF

HOLIDAY SPECIAL

10 courses for 30 persons P8,275 only

STEAM PRAWNS and CRABS (2 gal bags 2 kg prawns, 2 kg crabs) • TWO CHICKEN RELLENO (10 Wt 12 kg each) boneless and male about 50 slices • ASPARAGUS and CHICKEN in white sauce (10 Wt 2 kg) • BUTTERED MUSHROOMS (1 gallon tray) • BEEF ROAST SLICES with fresh vegetables (2 kg beef) • TWO PORK ROLL ROYALE (1 ft long x 3 in each) • BARBECUED PREMIUM SPARE RIBS w/ BRANDY (2 kg) • YOUNG CORN, QUAIL EGGS, GREEN PEAS w/ SHRIMPS (1 qt tray) • SPECIAL FRUIT SALAD (10 Wt 2 kg) creamy w/ peaches grapes and tangerines • POTATO SALAD, vitellery (10 Wt 7.5 kg)

CALL: 410-4521
929-9598 • 928-2765
926-6031 • 926-6029
415-3841 • 410-7228

FREE DELIVERY

PULUTAN SPECIAL 4 courses For 20 persons P1,825 only

PULUTAN GRANDE 5 courses For 20 persons P2,225 only

FIESTA ESPESAL 6 courses For 20 persons P2,600 only

FIESTA FILIPINO 6 courses For 20 persons P2,575 only

FIESTA GRANDE 6 courses For 20 persons P2,825 only

FIESTA ROYALE 6 courses For 25 persons P3,475 only

BUFFET ROYALE 6 courses For 50 persons P8,100 only

BUFFET DE LUXE 6 courses For 35 persons P5,575 only

HOMEMADE FOODSTUFF CO., 111 Dr. Lazcano St. Q.C.

Your take-along Videoke! MAGIC VIDEOKE MICROPHONE

Just plug in to your TV to enjoy singing!

English Song Chip with 700+ Songs (Built-in)

P12,750
P13,250

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL
CALL (632) 722-6786 • (632) 722-8052
STERN BRAVO TRADING CORPORATION
Suite 303 MICHELLE TOWER, 17 Annapolis St., Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila



MORENO

plaint against Desierto, he said.

Moreno said a colleague in the House, whom he did not name, had referred Francisco to him. He said this colleague might also endorse the complaint.

The congressman said he was initially concerned that the complaint against Desierto would have an impact on Estrada's plunder trial. But he added: "We are doing this to improve our chances in the plunder cases."

According to Moreno, if Desierto is not clean, as Francisco's complaint charges, then there is a danger that he may not also be clean with the other "complex" cases.

Moreno asked civil society to help Francisco in the same way it helped in Estrada's impeachment case.

"We know (Desierto is) powerful," Moreno said. "He has connections with all sectors and he's well entrenched. But nobody is as powerful as the Filipino people."

Petron checks

Francisco said he handled Roxas' cases for Accra, being an associate attorney there since joining the firm in 1990.

One of these cases involved the BSA, which government agencies investigated in early 1997 after it was discovered that checks issued by Petron Corp. through the Philippine National Bank were being cashed there.

Francisco said Petron issued the PNB checks amounting to P539 million to the Bureau of Customs and the Philippine Ports Authority as payment for "custom duties and wharf dues on oil products" it had imported.

According to Francisco, it turned out that a syndicate was behind the cashing of the checks. He said that it fronted as a real estate firm named Skybound Property Holdings, and that its chair, one Arnulfo Cabalza, opened two accounts with BSA in 1995 and used the bank for its transactions, particularly those involving the PNB checks.

Francisco said Roxas had asked the National Bureau of Investigation and even then President Fidel Ramos to help look into the matter.

But fearing a bank run, Roxas urged the concerned government agencies, led by then Presidential Security Group chief Jose Calimlim, to keep the investigation confidential.

Francisco said a parallel investigation was also done by then Col. Panfilo Lacson, who knew Roxas.

The scam was the subject of a privilege speech in the House by Rep. Renato Diaz, who sought an investigation in April 21, 1997.

But Francisco said no investigation occurred after Roxas met with Speaker Jose de Venecia. Similarly, he said, a Senate probe was averted after Roxas met with then Sen. Ernesto Maceda in June 1997.

By then, he said, the Office of the

CONSUMER & OIL PRICE WATCH

-Private Sector-

P 1.28 OIL PRICE ROLLBACK EXPECTED THIS MONTH

The average oil price rollback due from the oil companies in November is P1.28 per liter which may be given in three weekly rollbacks of 43 centavos on November 5th, 12th & 19th, or a one-time rollback of P1.28 on November 21st.

The average P1.28 oil price rollback is net of the 23 centavos advance oil price reduction made by the oil companies last October 26th for the month of November.

In the light of the contemplated OPEC meeting on November 14th - to study a possible cutback in production exceeding 1.5 million barrels per day - we will consider postponing the third weekly price reduction of 42 centavos to take place on November 19th, as a reserve, to cushion a possible oil price increase in December.

The reason for the big price rollback is due to the steep drop in the average price of Dubai crude by \$4.49 per barrel in October compared to September (from \$24.12 to \$19.63) and the peso depreciation of 49 centavos (from P51.27 to P51.76).

The Consumer and Oil Price Watch will meet with the three oil companies and the new oil players to reconcile any differences in the amount of the price reduction this month and its effectivity.

DIESEL PRICE ROLLBACK MUST BE THE SAME AS GASOLINE

We will, likewise, propose that the average oil price rollback be uniformly applied to diesel as the October 26th rollback on gasoline was 30 centavos and only 20 centavos for diesel and kerosene. A uniform price reduction will have a greater impact on power rates, shipping and hauling charges, and transport fare.

The Consumer and Oil Price Watch maintains that we have always been consistent in using the "Direct Cost Recovery Principle" since the oil industry was deregulated.

The Direct Cost Recovery Principle simply means getting the actual increase or decrease in the price of crude oil and adding the depreciation or appreciation of the peso-dollar rate of the previous month over the current month.

Using the Department of Energy (DOE) formula, the price increase or decrease is made on the 21st day of the following month.

A public service message of:



Raul T. Concepcion
RAUL T. CONCEPCION
Chairman

For comments or inquiries, call 844-8785, 812-6751 to 62; Fax: 818-6203
Email address: rtc@Cil.mozcom.com

OPINION

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: http://www.inq7.net



EUGENIA
D. APOSTOL
Founding
Chairman

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER

Vol. 16 No. 332
ISSN
0116-2642

ISAGANI YAMBOT
Publisher

LETTY JIMENEZ-MAGSANOC
Editor in Chief

JOSE MA. D. NOLASCO
Managing Editor

ABELARDO S. ULANDAY
Associate Editor

ARTEMIO T. ENGRACIA JR.
News Editor

NILO B. PAUROM
Assistant News Editor

PERGENTINO B. BANDAYREL JR.
National Editor

GERRY LIRIO
City Editor

ROSARIO A. GARCELLANO
Senior Deskperson

JORGE V. ARUTA
Opinion Editor

FRANCOISE B. JOAQUIN
Night Editor

AMANDO DORONILA
Editorial Consultant

MARIXI R. PRIETO
Board Chairman

ALEXANDRA PRIETO-ROMUALDEZ
President

RENATO R. REINOSO
Senior Vice President

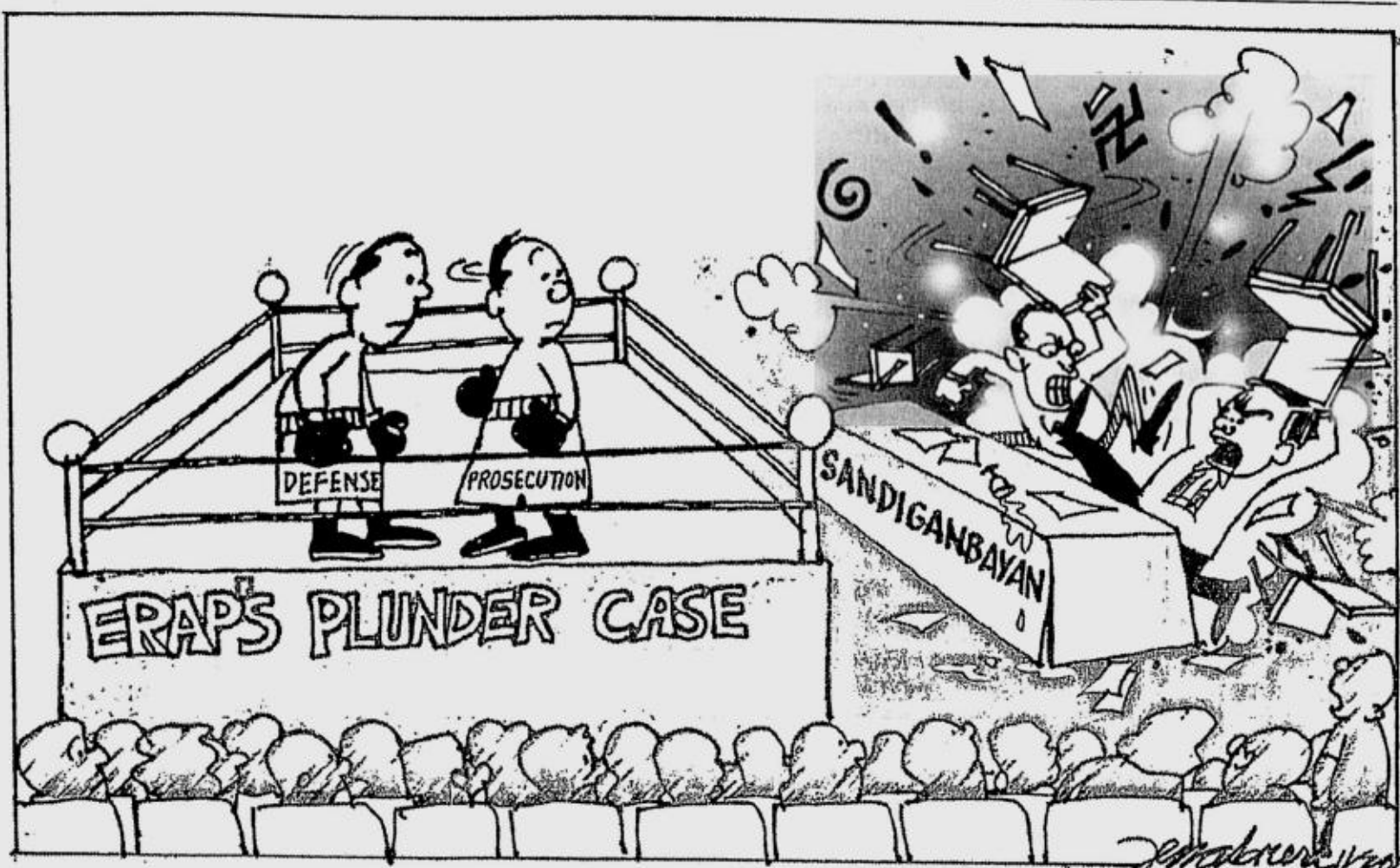
DAVID O. VALDES
Senior Vice President

FELIPE R. OLARTE
VP for Advertising

GLORIA P. LARDIZABAL
AVP for Circulation

The Philippine Daily Inquirer, Inc. has its business and editorial offices at China Rocas Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Yague and Mascarido Streets, Makati • P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office, 1263 Makati City, Philippines • Our new telephone numbers are 897-8806 connecting all departments: Editorial Fax 897-4793, 897-4794; Advertising 897-4807; Circulation 527-33-42, 527-33-48, 528-01-83, 528-01-86 and 528-02-13, Fax: 528-02-34.

All rights reserved. Subject to the conditions provided for by law, no article or photograph published by the Philippine Daily Inquirer may be reprinted or reproduced, in whole or in part, without its prior consent.



Erap insulting Filipino doctors

PERHAPS he doesn't realize it but former President Estrada insults Filipino doctors when he insists on being allowed to go to the United States for operations on his eyes and on his arthritic knees. Cataract operations are now routine in the Philippines. It is a rather simple and easy procedure. Hundreds of it are being performed every day in hospitals and clinics on an outpatient basis. The operation itself takes no more than 30 minutes. You can be out of the clinic within one hour.

A world-class eye center has just opened at the Rockwell Center with the best eye doctors in its staff. There is no need for Erap to go anywhere else for a cataract operation. He can get the best ophthalmologists and equipment right here.

The same thing goes for his arthritic knees. We have very good orthopedic surgeons here who can operate on them. Or he can have the surgeon of his choice in the United States to come here and operate on him, the same way US-based heart surgeon George Garcia comes here regularly to operate on heart patients. No need for Erap to leave the country. In fact, we have many young doctors here who were trained in US medical schools and hospitals. St. Luke's Hospital in particular, is proud of its staff of young doctors who trained extensively in the United States. For Erap to insist on going to the United States for medical attention as though he cannot get good doctors here is an insult to Filipino doctors.

Erap was overheard asking a doctor at the Veterans Medical Center to certify that he needs to go to the United States for operations but the doctor refused.

"That would be an insult to Filipino doctors," he told Erap. "We can do those operations here."

Erap is trying to elicit pity by saying that his knees are hurting badly but it is his own fault. Doctors have offered to operate on him but he rejected them. He wants to go to the United States. He can have the operation tomorrow and relieve the pain. He can have the cataract operation the same day or the day before or the day after and have 20/20 vision. But he is enduring the pain and the bad eyesight because he is using them as an excuse to be allowed to go to the United States the same way Imelda Marcos used her eyes

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz



to convince a gullible judge to allow her to go to the United States.

Why does he want to go to the United States even with the anthrax there? What do you think? Allow him to leave the Philippines and you may not see him again. When you say goodbye to him at the airport, also say goodbye to the cases against him.

And why do you think Erap and his lawyers want so much to get Justice Anacleto Badoy out of the Sandiganbayan's third division? Obviously because he cannot be pressured, persuaded or influenced to rule in their favor. Failing there, they have quickly sent a group to demonstrate in front of the Sandiganbayan and demand the ouster of Badoy the very next day after his exposé of the "pressure" on him appeared in the newspapers.

And why do you think the defense lawyers are trying to delay the trial of the plunder case against Erap? "If you can't win a case, delay it" is an old advice in the legal profession. Is that why they're trying to delay the trial? God knows they have tried everything except throw in the kitchen sink to achieve that. They have filed about a hundred motions on the case. Just ruling on those motions alone would take a lot of the justices' time. All the defense lawyers absented themselves on the first day of the trial to try to have it postponed. Why are they doing that?

Erap is a detainee. An innocent person would want his trial to be over quickly so he can go free as quickly as possible. So why don't they want a quick trial? Why are they trying to suppress the presentation of evidence the same way they suppressed evidence in the Senate impeachment trial?

It is for this reason and the accusations of "pressure" by Badoy, that the Supreme Court

should allow the live coverage of Erap's trial by television and radio. The tribunal had earlier banned live broadcast coverage because, it said, print reporters are there anyway. But print coverage is necessarily limited. It cannot print everything that goes on in detail because of space limitations. Badoy said coverage of the first two days of trial were incomplete and not factual, so he is filing a petition asking the high court to allow live radio-TV coverage.

I think the Supreme Court should allow it because of the scandal that has erupted in the Sandiganbayan. And the public has the right to see for themselves the antics of the lawyers and the behavior of the justices.

CORRECTIONS: If you think the column on All Saints' Day about our mythological monsters was short and incomplete, you are right. Four paragraphs after the first three paragraphs are missing because the faxed copy received by the INQUIRER was illegible. They tried several times to contact me but unfortunately, I wasn't home.

But anyway, no great harm was done. The missing paragraphs were a description of the dark dike and street through the fishponds and our games and storytelling about the monsters under the street lamp. I won't repeat them here anymore. But the reader may want the missing descriptions of some of the monsters. Here they are:

"An aswang is a human that takes the form of a big dog or pig that targets pregnant women. Whip it with a *buntot-page* (the tail of a stingray) and it will be transformed back into a man. The *manananggal* has bat-like wings; its upper torso separates at the waist from the lower part and flies away to hunt. If you find the lower part that is left behind, pour a mixture of vinegar and garlic on it and the upper part will not be able to reattach to it again. A *tikbalang* is half-horse, half-man. A *kapre* is a giant who perches on top of a tree smoking a big cigar..."

In the Oct. 30 column on the two international airports, the fifth to the last paragraph said that "the CS Galaxy, largest military plane in the world, can carry 15 percent of the load of a Boeing 747." The percentage should have been 150 percent instead of only 15 percent.

In the dark

TWO days after most of Luzon was plunged into darkness, the people are still in the dark about what really happened. All that is certain is that government officials have ruled out the usual suspects, meaning saboteurs and coup plotters as well as some unlucky jellyfish which might have wandered too close to the Sual power plant in Pangasinan and got sucked into its machines.

EDITORIALS Such assurances came as a great relief to a jittery public which had been hearing and talking about a power grab allegedly being hatched by some police and military officers with more than a little help from some opposition politicians. The power blackout, which occurred three hours after President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo flew to Brunei for the annual summit of Asean leaders, had fueled fears that a coup attempt was underway. Such apprehensions have been laid to rest by now.

However, the official explanations being given for the power outage are anything but reassuring. Rolando Bacani, senior vice president for systems operations of the National Power Corp., gave the sequence of events thus: First, a boiler collapsed shortly before 5 p.m. Sunday, causing the Sual coal power plant to break down. Power immediately started to fluctuate in the Luzon grid. At about the same time, the Calaca power plant suffered a "technical glitch" and had to be shut down. Then when the Napocor tried to restore power in the affected areas, it triggered another "tripping" in four power sources.

Mercifully before midnight, power had been restored in most of the affected areas.

Curiously, the Napocor was able to find a solution without knowing the cause of the problem. Missing from the official explanations is how the breakdown in the system started. So how can the public be assured that the problem will not recur?

Here's another question: Why did a breakdown in one plant cause other plants to conk out also? In this day and age, there must be a way to isolate a power breakdown in one plant so that it doesn't cascade and bring the whole system down. Common sense would dictate that the system be designed that way. But then perhaps that is too much to expect from experts who couldn't even foresee that jellyfish can clog some parts of a power plant and put it out of commission like what happened almost two years ago.

Comebacks

ALL of America, it seemed, wanted the New York Yankees to win the World Series one more time to lift the spirit of the city that had been dealt a devastating blow by the Sept. 11 terrorist attack on their city. Everyone, that is, except the Arizona Diamondbacks and their fans back home. And the Yankees, proud champions of the last three years, were ready and willing to oblige.

The going was tough at the start of the playoffs. Going against the Oakland Athletics, the Yankees dropped the first two games. Then they fought back and won the next three games. That was the first time a team won the division series after losing the first two games at home. But it was only the first of several amazing comebacks that will make fans remember the 2001 playoffs for as long as baseball is played.

The Yankees had an easier time disposing of the Seattle Mariners, winning the American League championship 4-2. But against the Diamondbacks, they again had their back to the wall by the time the World Series shifted to New York, after losing the first two games in Phoenix.

At home they struck back with three straight wins, twice stealing victory from the Diamondbacks at the very last opportunity. In the fourth game, with two outs in the bottom of the ninth, the Yankees scored a homerun to tie the score. In the tenth, another homerun won them the game. A similar thing happened in the fifth game, when Scott Brosius drove a two-run homer again in the bottom of the ninth to allow the Yankees to snatch a victory.

Time for the Diamondbacks to make a comeback of their own. In game 6, they gave the Yankees a sound beating, 15-2, the second biggest winning margin in a World Series. Then in game 7, the Diamondbacks found themselves in the same fix as the Yankees in games 5 and 6. With the score standing at 2-1 in the Yankees' favor, they needed one run to tie the game and two to win both the game and the championship. To do that, they had "to beat The Unbeatable," as a TV commentator described the Yankees' ace closer, Mariano Rivera. And they did it with two runs driven in by Tony Womack and Luis Gonzalez, their homerun star who until then hardly shone in the playoffs.

"This is what stories and dreams are about," said Diamondbacks owner Jerry Colangelo. About that, there is no doubt.

I MYSELF do not buy that part in the IBON survey that says Metro Manila residents are unhappy with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo because of "the worsening economic situation."

The worsening economic situation is real enough. The telltale signs are there that this Christmas will be even bleaker than last year, and last year already broke records in bleakness from the uncertainty over Erap's impeachment trial. I do know, from buying items from the *sari-sari* stores in my neighborhood, that prices have soared these past months, which should exact a heavy toll on the urban poor in particular.

But I don't know that Filipinos, particularly Metro Manila residents, will naturally blame the current President for it. Presidential Spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao has a point when he says other surveys show differently. Pulse Asia's survey had 24 percent of its respondents looking up to Ms Macapagal as a "most trustworthy national leader." In contrast to only 1-2 percent of respondents seeing opposition leaders Erap, Panfilo Lacson and Edgardo Angara as so.

Of course, if I remember right, an SWS survey also showed that Mike Arroyo had a very low credibility rate, along with Lacson and Ador Nawanay, while Ms Macapagal had a fairly high one. Suggesting that while most Filipinos bought the influence-peddling case against the First Gentleman, they did not think his wife had anything to do with it. Poor reasoning it may be—the Philippine Consultative Assembly openly accuses Ms Macapagal of being party to the crime—but that is what the survey says the public thinks.

But there is a part in the IBON survey I do buy. And that is the one about Metro Manila residents protesting the American bombing of Afghanistan. Some 83 percent of IBON's 350 respondents said they did not want it, though only 50 percent cited the fact that it was unjustified. Most worried that the continued bombing of Afghanistan would widen the war and deepen the economic crisis.

I've always wondered what Filipinos thought of the American bombing of Afghanistan—and Ms Macapagal's aggressive endorsement of it—given on one hand our longstanding dependence on America for guidance and on the other our 20-

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros



year dependence on our overseas Filipino workers for survival. I do not know the current figures for OFWs, but I do know government does not exaggerate when it says the economy would collapse without them. Whole villages depend on OFWs to get by. Many of the OFWs are not just in Saudi Arabia and neighboring Arab countries, they are in Malaysia and Indonesia, the Southeast Asian countries loudly criticizing the American campaign in Afghanistan and calling for a halt to it.

I've always suspected there would at least be some strong reservations about the American campaign in Afghanistan given its potentially disastrous effects on overseas work for Filipinos. And by extension some strong opposition to Ms Macapagal's feverish efforts to turn the Philippines into a frontline country in the American-led coalition against the Taliban. The thing to fear there, I thought, was not terrorist attacks, as international terrorists were not likely to spend time and money murdering a people who seemed quite capable of doing it to themselves. The thing to fear there was our OFWs variously being caught up in a widening conflagration or in the ensuing unrest where they were, being discriminated against because of their government's position on the war, or being sent packing home. Not to speak of prospective OFWs finding the door of the global labor market shut on them. If the IBON survey is to be believed, most Metro Manila residents fear the same things.

Maybe that survey exaggerates the extent of Filipino opposition to the bombing of Afghanistan? Maybe its sample is too small, or skewed in favor of a particular sector? Maybe. But it would be interesting if another survey brought out similar sentiments, if in less overwhelming numbers. Because that obviously will impact on Ms

Macapagal's credibility rating. The numbers of Filipinos landing work contracts abroad falls, or worse, OFWs start trekking home, and that will be put squarely on the lap of Ms Macapagal. Unlike the vague "deteriorating economic conditions" and her husband's unsavory activities, that will stick to her like glue. That tragedy will be seen as her own making. Which could make her a most unpopular figure before very long.

Well, people who make their beds have to lie on them.

I remember that two of the things we found especially ugly about the Estrada administration were its resurrection of the Marcos cronies and its use of religious obscurantism to defend the utterly immoral.

The first was given a face in particular by Lucio Tan. He it was Erap bent every rule for, even scrapping an air treaty with Taiwan to protect PAL—which made it more costly for OFWs in Taiwan to travel. He it was Erap ordered the PAL unions to give up their collective bargaining right for, which violated the Constitution. He it was Erap cleared of tax evasion charges, despite the previous government's documentation of them.

The second was given a face in particular by Mike Velarde. He it was who summoned his El Shaddai legions to gather at the Luneta each time the anti-Erap forces mounted a rally in Makati and elsewhere. He it was who sponsored the rally in Luneta last December to show mass support for an impeached president. He it was who gave unto Erap as Erap gave unto him.

Well, guess who are back in the limelight? Mike Velarde shared the stage with Ms Macapagal in Hong Kong, grinning from ear to ear in his plaid suit. And Lucio Tan was singled out by Ms Macapagal for praise in a dinner with Chinese businessmen the day after she came back from her visit to China.

If there is any gospel truth in this country, it is only that hustlers and cronies tend to inherit this earth.

Tiyak 'yon.

Comments are welcome at dequiros@vasia.com

Fissure at the Sandiganbayan

THE DEEP division in Philippine society over the plunder and related cases laid against deposed President Joseph Estrada opened a new fissure—this time in the Sandiganbayan—after Justice Anacleto Badoy Jr. charged Presiding Justice Francis Garchitorena last Sunday with allegedly trying to pressure him to resign from the bench.

In an unprecedented public washing of soiled linen seldom seen in the judiciary, Garchitorena retaliated by berating Badoy for alleged administrative lapses—including “lack of work” ethic, tardiness in attending sessions and in asking the Supreme Court for additional staff.

The spectacle of two justices squabbling publicly over how they would handle cases highlighted the disarray in the Sandiganbayan as it struggled to begin the long-delayed trial last Monday of the plunder case against Estrada. The plunder case, conviction for which brings a death penalty, is the most serious of the raft of cases filed against Estrada, among which are graft, perjury and illegal use of alias. Badoy's third division handles the plunder case, as well as one of two perjury cases, and Garchitorena has just thrown out one perjury case, ruling that the prosecution's charge that Estrada had understated his 1999 statement of assets and liabilities was “thoroughly vague.”

Garchitorena's ruling was a setback for the prosecution whose case was in effect dismissed on a point of legal technicality even before the prosecutors could introduce evidence. The ruling, in essence, followed the pattern of the cases against Estrada since his impeachment trial before the Senate where the Senate voted 11-10 to bar the opening of bank documents intended to show Estrada's allegedly hidden wealth.

Following the removal of Estrada through people power on Jan. 20, it was thought that shifting the cases stemming from corruption would allow them to be tried in a calmer judicial atmosphere. But this was not to be as tensions simmered inside the Sandiganbayan, which for the first time in the judicial history of this country, is responsible for determining Estrada's guilt or innocence, outside of the heat of political contention.

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila



The tensions erupted on Sunday when Badoy disclosed to the press alleged pressure by Garchitorena to make him quit the court. Garchitorena has denied the charge, but his response was something of a blow below the belt or irrelevant. It had something to do with Badoy's work habits—something judges, out of courtesy, do not criticize one another of. If judges are theoretically independent from the political departments, there is an unwritten rule among themselves that they enjoy a modicum of independence on their style of handling cases.

Garchitorena scored Badoy for being obsessed with the plunder case—as if it was Badoy's “destiny,” he demurred—when the desirable norm should be that all cases with the Sandiganbayan should have equal priority. Badoy has a good reason to give priority to the plunder cases over let's say corruption cases against a customs examiner or a BIR examiner. The cases against Estrada have explosive political implications. It is the first time in the history of the republic that a former President is being held to account within our judicial system. If all cases had equal priority, it will take ages before the Estrada cases are terminated—and delaying the cases is apparently the grand strategy of Estrada's lawyers. They have already filed more than 100 motions, raising procedural questions, all of which had the effect of delaying the trial.

Neither Garchitorena nor Badoy has directly linked their actions to the Estrada cases, but they indicate undercurrents flowing from the trial. Badoy did not reveal why Garchitorena wanted him to step down. But Badoy has come under fire from Estrada's lawyers who have sought his inhibition from trying the case on the grounds of having shown bias against Estrada. Estrada's law-

yers have also clashed with Badoy over what the justice considered their insulting and unruly behavior. Now Badoy is under pressure from both Garchitorena and Estrada's lawyers.

The priority given by Badoy to the Estrada cases does not lack precedent. During the constitutional challenge issued by Estrada's lawyers against the legitimacy of the accession of Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to the presidency, the Supreme Court, aware of the politically disruptive nature of the case, gave priority in promulgating a 13-0 decision upholding the legitimacy of her presidency. Within weeks, it issued another 13-0 decision upholding the first decision, in response to the appeal made by Estrada's lawyers. The court gave the case priority even though its dockets were clogged.

Garchitorena's disclosure over Badoy's conduct should properly belong to an administrative complaint with the Supreme Court. In short, it is an internal matter within the judicial system. A week ago, when Garchitorena threw out the perjury case, he did so in an extraordinarily scathing language, virtually saying that the Ombudsman was ignorant of the law.

Garchitorena has a tendency to deliver extended lectures on the law, exhibiting his legal erudition when issuing rulings—lectures addressed to the prosecution and, one suspects, to the public as well. He did this in his ruling on the perjury case.

On April 20, Garchitorena scolded prosecutors after they sought to withdraw graft charges against Estrada, saying they came to the court unprepared. He questioned the approach of filing a single plunder case against Estrada. He asked the prosecutors for a definition of plunder, to which the prosecution replied that the justice could be perceived it was acting as defense lawyer for the accused.

Garchitorena took off with another lecture. He reminded the prosecutors that it would be the court, not the public, that would decide whether the cases would be withdrawn. “They (the public) are not graduates of law... The public is not ordained by jurisprudence to justify the withdrawal of information.” Garchitorena was pontificating.

Visual puns—and truths

VISUAL puns abound in the Internet, and their use has proliferated in the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Previously, I'd written about images sent by e-mail that purported to show what New York would look like “if Bin Laden had won.” One of the most provocative images was that of the Statue of Liberty with her face veiled, in the manner of the women of Afghanistan under the rule of the Taliban.

Lately, another visual pun making the rounds is a site that purports to be a dating service of the Taliban. Click on the site and you see photos of Afghan women, their faces and bodies obscured by their long robes and veils, with captions that are meant to be funny. The point, I guess, is that it's impossible for men to judge the charms and appeal of women if they're covered from head to foot.

Well, come to think of it, that might not be such a bad deal for women, after all.

Anyway, before we continue with the laugh fest, or the well-intentioned but perhaps misguided breast-beating in behalf of women living under Muslim law and culture, here's a message that a young Muslim woman (at least I think she is) by the name of Ashary Tamano sent me by e-mail. I must admit she pricked my conscience somewhat. Here's what she had to say.

EVER Wonder...

Why when a nun covers herself from head to toe, she is respected for devoting herself to God; but when a Muslimah does that, she is oppressed? Why when a Western woman stays at home to look after the house and the kids, she is sacrificing herself and doing good for the household; but when a Muslim woman does so, she needs to be liberated?

Why a Jew can grow a beard, and he's just practicing his faith; but when a Muslim does that, he is an extremist?

Why when a child dedicates himself to a subject, he has potential; but when a child dedicates himself to Islam, he is hopeless?

Why when a Christian or a Jew kills someone, religion is not mentioned; but when a Mus-

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David



lim is charged with a crime, it is Islam that goes to trial?

But then again, after all that...

Why is it that Islam is still the fastest-growing religion in the world?

JOSE G. Rimón II, better known to friends here and abroad as Oying, wrote in response to a recent column on “entertainment for education.” Oying happens to be deputy director of the Center for Communication Programs of the Johns Hopkins University School of Hygiene and Public Health, which pioneered in the use of entertainment for education or “Enter-Educate,” which I mentioned in that piece.

By way of clarification, Oying says that indeed “Ricky Martin sang with Lea Salonga on that Philippine campaign against teenage pregnancy!” Oying notes that Martin was part of the teeny-bopper group “Menudo” then and that he still has “a huge poster of Lea and Ricky (with Menudo) in my office.”

Entertainment for Education is growing to be a truly global movement. The Third International Conference on Entertainment Education for Social Change was held in the Netherlands last year (co-sponsored by the Johns Hopkins University Center for Communication Programs, the Netherlands Entertainment Education Foundation and Ohio University). In this conference, the Philippines was represented by APO's Jim Paredes. Writes Oying: “The report (on the conference) includes a CD where Jim, together with a rock star from Peru and a Filipino-Canadian singer (Marides Lazo, former Miss Saigon/Germany and currently with Starlight Express/Germany) sang several songs.”

Glad to know the movement is growing, Oying, and nice to hear from you!

WOMEN and men in the media, women in politics and governance, and women in decision-making positions in business and civil society from all over Asia and the Pacific are taking part in a groundbreaking conference on “Media and Transformative Leadership” that opens tomorrow.

Organized by the Center for Asia-Pacific Women in Politics (Capwip) and the Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility, the conference focuses on the role of the media in the promotion of the culture of transformative leadership. “In most, if not all, forums where the culture of transformative leadership has been discussed, the importance of the role of media has been identified. However, there has been no big attempt to formally bring them into the loop or network of women that work for the promotion of the culture of transformative leadership in their own organizations and among women in politics, governance and decision making,” say the organizers.

Thus, the conference aims to provide media practitioners and organizations “the venue where they can define their role...and initiate the drafting of crucial strategies that should ensure that media's role, as they define it, in the promotion of transformative leadership values, would be carried out.” At the same time, the gathering will also serve as a training venue for women interested in exploring and applying the principles of transformative leadership in their own spheres.

Organized in collaboration with Isis International, and sponsored by the Asia-Pacific Gender Equality Network of the UNDP, Unifem and the Paragon-UNDP regional governance program, the “Media and Transformative Leadership” Conference reels off from Nov. 8-10 at the AIM Conference Center in Makati. Those interested in taking part can still, even at this late date, register through the Capwip secretariat by calling Tel. Nos. 832-2112; 832-0680 or e-mail at capwip@info.com.ph. You may also visit their website: www.capwip.org.

Rizal's idea of a ‘colegio moderno’

AFTER THE LONG weekend, I greeted Monday with a frown. It was back to work and back to school for me. On my way home from Tagaytay last weekend, my sister and I remembered summer and Christmas vacations in Baguio that always had to come to an end. Somewhere between the giant stone lion and the zig-zag road lookout point, our father would utter the chilling words, “Sorry folks, vacation is over.” Now it is our turn to scare children with that line not realizing that we have aged a great deal. Now that I find myself on the other side of the classroom, I remind my students during stormy weather that they are not the only ones happy when holidays come around—teachers also rejoice, until they realize they have tons of papers to take home and correct over the holidays.

School is one of those things that you look back on with so much nostalgia, but when you are a student grappling with schoolwork you want to be somewhere else. As a teacher, friends often call for advice on where to send their children to school and this made me look up Jose Rizal's 1892 plans for a “colegio moderno” or a modern college whose lofty purpose was, “to form and educate young men of good family and means in accordance with the demands of modern times and circumstances.” While some educators today will disagree with Rizal's sexist (all male) and elitist (young men of means) clientele, it is essential to see the curriculum in the context of his time. Rizal's basic curriculum consisted of five subject areas:

1. Morals, Study of Religions, Natural Law, Civil Law, Deportment and Hygiene.
2. Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry, Natural History, Geography and Political Economy.
3. World History, Philippine History, Logic, Spanish, Rhetoric and Poetics.
4. Spanish, English, French, German, Chinese and Tagalog.
5. Gymnastics, Equestrian, Fencing, Swimming, Music, Drawing and Dance.

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo



Like many things, Rizal's dream of this proposed school was never established but the plans alone are worth rereading because it outlined the administration of the school, examination of teachers, even the way that shares would be divided among the administration and faculty of the school who were its principal stockholders. A sample daily horarium is supplied and there is some detail even with regard to school uniforms and recreation suits. All students were boarders and their wardrobe: “...Shall consist of twelve shirts, twelve pairs of white drawers, four woolen underclothes, six striped blouses, six dark trousers, 24 handkerchiefs, 24 pairs of socks, one leather belt, two pairs of shoes and one pair of patent leather shoes.”

In all this detail, the one component conspicuously absent in Rizal's school is instruction and practice of Religion. This may well be Rizal's reaction to his own education, but it is clear that although he was born, raised (and some say, died) a Roman Catholic, Rizal did not include Catechism in his curriculum which was standard in all schools of his day. Although Rizal had Roman Catholic catechism as a built-in part of his education in the Philippines, whether this was from his mother's knee at home, primary schooling with tutors, secondary schooling at the Jesuit-run Ateneo Municipal de Manila, or courses preparatory to medicine at the Dominican-run University of Santo Tomas, none of this was reflected in his curriculum. Instead of catechism, Rizal proposed the study of religions which would prob-

ably make students more open or at least tolerant of other faiths.

Following Rizal's cue and the anti-friar writings of many of Rizal's contemporaries, some contemporary Filipino historians suggest that religion was one of the essential components of Spanish colonialism. Catholicism is blamed for teaching the colonized to suffer the present in the hope of gaining their reward in the afterlife. Religion and education taught the colonized to accept fate (at times even abuse) meekly like Christ who suffered an agonizing death but was resurrected from the dead and rewarded in heaven. Rizal's school had none of that. Students were boarders so there was no problem with traffic and getting up at 5:30 a.m. to be ready by six and a full day as follows:

6:00-6:15, Swedish gymnastics. Purely hygienic [whatever that means]. 6:15-6:30, Study period. 8:00 to 10:00, Classes. On Sundays, religious duties. [What about people whose day of obligation was Wednesday or Saturday?] 10:00-10:30 Light buffet lunch. 10:30-11:00, Recreation, swimming, fencing on alternate or combined days. 11:00 to 12 noon, Study. 12:00 to 1:45 p.m., Recreation, music and drawing. 1:45 to 3:00, Study. 3:00 to 5:00, Class (on holidays, stroll till 6:15). 5:00 to 5:15, Tea. [How very British indeed.] 5:15 to 5:45, Gymnastics and sports. 5:45 to 6:45, Recreation. 6:45 to 8:00, Study. 8:00 to 8:30, Dinner. 8:30 to 9:30, Recreation in the parlor, social intercourse, dancing, music. [Since this was an all-male school, what dancing were they taught?] 9:30 p.m. to 5:30 am, Sleep.

All this looks very good on paper but I wonder if this almost monastic horarium left the children with enough time to enjoy childhood. Rizal, like many people then as now, rush children to grow up.

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

Tennis court characters

I HAVE this passionate love affair ever since I can remember. It's ongoing and, in fact, it started even before I got married, sired a daughter and four sons who are now all grown up and are well into their own lives. They know about my love affair, have no objection whatsoever and even take care of the financing side. And the best thing is that they don't want me to end it.

I get to be with my love every Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday. Not, however, at secretive, enclosed Victoria Court but at an open, sunny place where others smitten like me go—at the tennis court.

HIGH BLOOD

Manuel Garcia Calleja

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. —Ed.

A fellow hacker at the club, however, almost got me ached one Sunday when he declared he will not play tennis again. This friend is himself a long-time tennis lover, court fixture who looks inane—at least, to the uninitiated—whacking a small, fuzzy ball back and forth, under a blazing sun, sometimes every day of the week.

I blinked, surprised. Now, what's wrong playing tennis? Your legs already got the crimp? The missus shackling you?

There's nothing wrong with playing tennis, my friend qualifies his declaration. Tennis is great. Super. Fantastic. My legs are fine and the missus would pay a million just to get me out of the house.

It's the people you play with, my friend slowly, almost in resigned tone, avers.

Here we go again, I say to myself. The last time, my friend discoursed at length on why he will not ride in a jeepney again. But that's another story...

So?

So, have you tangled with the poor loser? The guy who believes he cannot lose but alas, loses most of the time? Who raises hell, hurls his racquet, snarls at the *pulot* boys and sulks in a corner after every debacle?

I sure have tangled with a bad loser, I answer, but under my breath. I remember it's only last week that my friend started talking to me again.

Tennis characters, bah! I can see my friend warning up and I love it.

There's the guy who blames everybody but himself. Who thinks he's the perfect racket wielder. Who grimaces and worse, berates his partner for every mix-hit. But wait till he himself makes a boner...

I can feel my friend has had some experience with this kind. I just don't know whom to blame, though.

You see, my friend is what they hail at the club as an incredible net player. He invariably sends the ball to the net.

I love it when my friend has warmed up. So I prod him a little. What about the guy who calls a ball out when it's evidently in (and vice-versa) and who shouts a scoring set wrong? And with a poker face at that?

Not to be outdone, my friend balls his fist, bangs it on the table and bellows: And the prima donnas!

The guys my friend calls prima donnas are the Class A (*daw*) players who find every excuse in the book for not playing with the beginners or the lower class players. *Akala mo, kung sino na silang magagaling!*

I sympathize with my friend who I observe a few times have been refused partnership—discreetly, of course—by better players. I, too, was once told in my face to go find another guy to team up with when I was just starting to hit a tennis ball. I made a vow to beat the SOB someday but, of course, I haven't, I can't and never will. And he still refuses to recognize my devastating backhand.

It's bad enough we have the prima donnas but my God—my friend is starting to gesticulate now that there are also the “teaching pros” (*daw*) who give you pointers while a game is in progress. O, your footwork is wrong. O, your timing is off. Punch your volley. Follow-through with your serve. Bend your knee. Eyes on the ball...

I think I have played with the “teaching pro.” But he was able to give me lessons only once. The second time around, I jumped the gun, anticipated his every shot and movement and zapped him with a dose of his own medicine. O, watch your footwork. Punch your volley. Bend your knees...

In the end, I say to my friend, all is not lost. Not all players are poor losers. There are far more players who take defeat graciously and do not blame anybody. If they smash their rackets and curse the heavens, it must only be to release something which if not vented out, might result in dire consequences.

The cheaters, well... But at the club I doubt if there are really deliberate cheaters. Like they say, *baka makalusot lang...*

The so-called prima donnas, well, they have earned their places. Tennis is a game to enjoy. And enjoyment comes in pitting skill against skill.

The complainer, the court-hugger, the loudmouth, the player cum beer souser, you have to live with. Surely, there is one in every forest. And the “teaching pro,” well, two can always play the game.

But my friend insists he will not play tennis again. Tennis, he sneers, is a game where love is professed at every turn but where players do not have an iota of love for each other.

Me, I will not stop playing tennis for as long as the legs can hack it, even if all the undesirables of the game are there every time I step into the court. And I have no problem with the heart giving up or straying—it belongs, come rain or shine, to tennis.

Manuel Garcia Calleja, 60, is an occasional fiction writer whose stories have appeared in *Panorama*, *Weekly Graphic*, *Free Press* and *Women's*. He is also a regular tennis player.

THEY SAID

Grades of reaction

“For neighboring countries, it is required of them to assist, and for us who are farther away, it is sufficient to express sympathy and to pray for their safety.”

—Malaysia Islamic Party spiritual leader Abdul Hadi Awang on the call for jihad by Osama bin Laden

Congressional grudges

“It is unfortunate not all of us here are imbued with a sense of public interest and legislative duty.”

—Rep. Neptali Gonzales Jr. on the third time Congress adjourned because of Rep. Raul Villareal's personal grudge against a fellow congressman

Civilian casualties

“The military bombed areas populated by civilians. How could they not see that civilians would be hurt when they focused their attack on them?”

—Basilan provincial board member Nasser Salain who said the military killed civilians and passed them off as Abu Sayyaf members

Non-discriminating

“Terrorism is an act which does not discriminate against any race or religion.”

—Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra

The INQUIRER is a member of the

PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE

The National Association of Philippine Newspapers



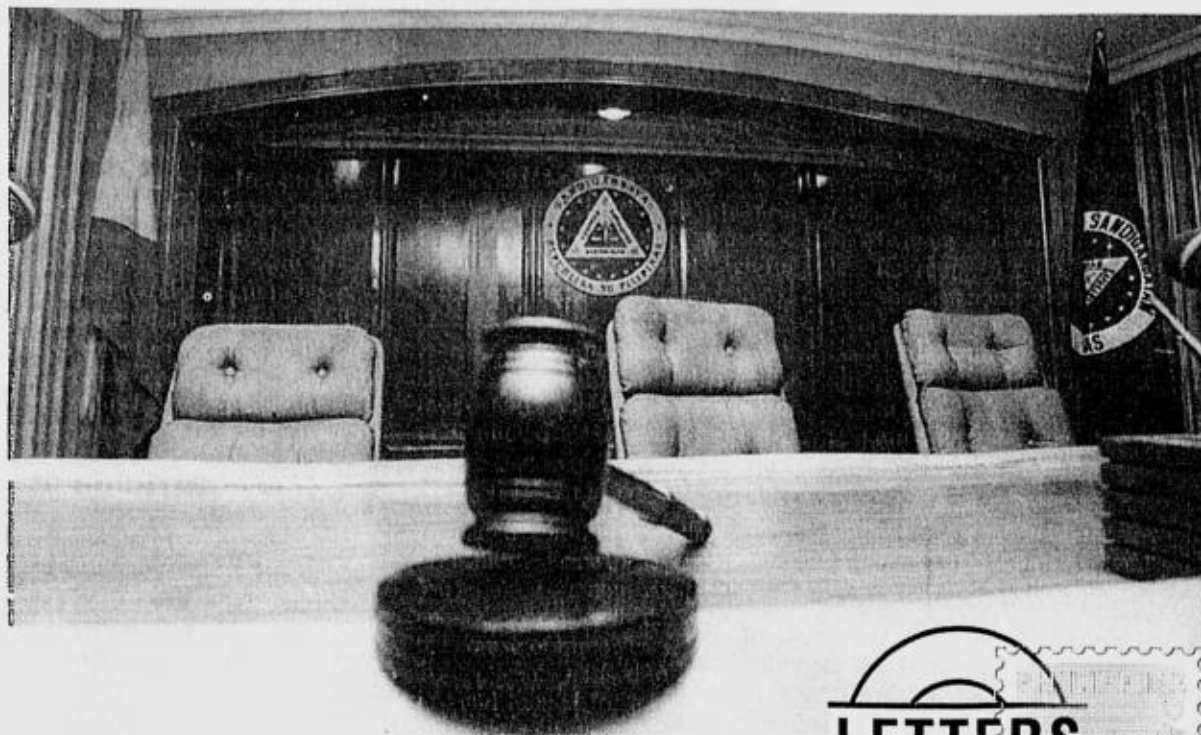
SC should intervene in Sandiganbayan row

THE HAPPY beneficiary of the ongoing bickering and in-fighting between Sandiganbayan Presiding Justice Francis Garchitorena and Third Division Presiding Justice Anacleto Badoy Jr. is deposed President Joseph Estrada himself, who now faces a string of grave criminal cases before the Sandiganbayan, including the capital offense of plunder.

Unless the Sandiganbayan, as an institution, remains professional and united, the pending cases of Estrada will surely suffer further unnecessary delay and the already badly tarnished image of the criminal justice system of the country will again be exposed to further condemnation by the Filipino people.

The powers of Garchitorena, as presiding justice, are limited to administrative matters. He has no business interfering in the internal and substantive judicial turf of the third division. In fact, the Sandiganbayan has committed a grave and unpardonable mistake in appointing Garchitorena as the spokesperson for all the pending cases of Estrada which have been raffled among all the Sandiganbayan divisions. Media relations is not a job of a presiding justice. The Sandiganbayan should appoint its own public information officer to do that. Besides, the personality of Garchitorena does not suit the role of a press relations officer.

Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., as the highest



judicial official of the land, should immediately intervene to correct the disunity and professional jealousies that badly plague the Sandiganbayan. The ugly judicial tussles are so serious that it should not be left alone to the routine administrative powers of the Office of the Court Administrator, which is headed, incidentally, by a newly appointed head, Justice Presbitero Velasco.

The political heat and pressure inside the Sandiganbayan kitchen, so to speak, increases as the Supreme Court en banc is due to rule on the constitutionality of the plunder law anytime soon. I am not surprised if all the financial and political resources of the Estrada camp are now being mobilized with great frenzy at all costs. A sudden jump from Malacañang to the lethal injection chamber is not a comfortable



prospect, in the first place.

As a member of the bar and the law academe, I am disheartened by what is happening now inside the Sandiganbayan.—MANUEL J. LASERNA JR., professor, Institute of Law, Far Eastern University, Manila

Crusade against ruthlessness

IN HIS column "Defending civilization," it was obvious that Conrado de Quiros is very much against the bombing of Afghanistan by US and British forces. He thinks that the United States is morally wrong.

May I ask what De Quiros' recommendations would be to the present predicament the United States is in? He is talking about the anti-war demonstrations going on here in the United States. He is implying that the Americans will realize the so-called folly of the US government in bombing Afghanistan. Over 5,000 people died needlessly during the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center last Sept. 11, 2001. We are dealing with ruthless terrorists and it is an either-kill-or-be-killed situation right now. True, it is only been over a month since the World Trade Center tragedy occurred but I highly doubt that the present inflamed situation of the Americans will be short-lived. It will be long-lived. It is a crusade against ruthlessness.

I am a Filipino living in the United States and I do feel for the people who lost their relatives. I think what the Americans are doing is self-defense and self-preservation. It is not about imposing one's will on another nation or imperialism. Some of us will just blame the United States for the sorry plight of our country but we must look deep into ourselves first.

Oh, about the anti-war demos here in the United States, they are insignificant. Ninety-five percent of the Americans are very upset right now and I doubt that this anti-war campaign can really change the American psyche with its wrong reading of the situation.—SAUL ARTURO SALVADOR, SLArSS@netscape.net

Diverted to Taiwan, not Clark

THE DIVERSION of Singapore Airlines flight SQ74 last Oct. 23 to Kaohsiung, Taiwan and not to Clark as reported in another daily has caused anxiety to my business associate who was then on the said SQ flight. The diversion was due to the "repair being done on a three-inch deep and 33 feet-wide gouge near the centerline of the runway." This business associate from England who visits Manila regularly, is very much aware of the impact of the terrorist attack on the United States. He proceeded to

Arab frustrations fuel hatred against US

AMMAN—Autocratic regimes, poor living conditions, repressed public freedoms and a total lack of social benefits are some of the ingredients that have fueled extremism in the Arab world, analysts say.

Speaking in interviews with AFP, these analysts believe that the Sept. 11 terror attacks on the United States have forced the world to pause and reflect, to try to understand the hatred dividing it.

Accusing fingers were immediately pointed at the United States by Arab countries believing that US bias for Israel is the key reason behind the emergence of extremist groups among them.

"It is too easy to accuse the United States. The majority of Arab countries are fertile grounds to cultivate terrorism," an Arab political analyst who declined to be named, because of fears of reprisals, told AFP.

"The daily frustrations of the Arab people and their leaders' failure to provide them with a decent life have contributed to transforming these countries into terrorist factories," the analyst said.

"Feelings of hatred toward the West were bred out of poverty, of the lack of human dignity and family security, in countries where despair touches large parts of the population while the leaders enjoy all the benefits," he said.

According to the analyst, "self-criticism goes against the grain in the Arab world."

"Arab leaders have always tried to find a real or fictitious enemy to blame for the ills of their countries, when it is really the leaders, themselves, who are to be blamed," he said.

Another analyst acknowledged that "some Arab dictatorships have prevented a healthy development" in their countries...with a helping hand, however, from the United States.

"The West and particularly the United States have certainly their share of responsibility in the disenchantment that prevails in the Arab world," that analyst said, also on condition of anonymity.

"Several Arab dictatorships continue to exist and flourish thanks to support from the United States, which prefers seeing allies at the helms of power even at the expense of the people's welfare," he told AFP.

In that context, the politics of interests prevail and US interests lie first and foremost in securing the oil deposits of the Middle East.

"The United States has thus deliberately ignored the abuse committed by some Arab leaders and steadfastly refrained from encouraging democracy from taking hold in some Arab countries, to prevent Islamist militants opposed to Washington from rising to power," the second analyst said.

A veteran Arab politician told AFP meanwhile that Arab leaders as well as the United States have used in the past Islamist movements to foster their own ambitions.

"Islamist movements who now spell fear for many Arab leaders were once encouraged by those same leaders to fight against nationalism in the 1950s when nationalism was perceived as a threat to their existence," he said.

The United States also encouraged some Arab governments to support Islamist movements outside the Arab world, such as in Afghanistan and Iran, to fight against communism, the politician said.

"The phenomenon of suicide operations was created by the (late Iranian spiritual guide) Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini in Iran, where soldiers were sent to the battle front wearing a key strung on a chain around their necks."

Khomeini, the politician said, "told the soldiers they could use the key to open the gate to paradise if they die on the battlefield."

The Muslim Sunni authority of Al-Azhar based in Cairo issued several fatwas, or religious decrees, condemning suicide operations, as contrary to Islam, to no avail.

These operations flourished over the years, as despair and disenchantment grew across the Arab world.

The Iranian-backed Lebanese resistance movement Hezbollah used suicide operations to fight Israeli occupation troops, and Palestinian Islamist groups carry out suicide attacks to fight Israeli occupation of their land.

Now the prime suspect in the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States, Saudi dissident Osama bin Laden, is following suit.

"Bin Laden has turned the despair of the Arab people to his own advantage and has no problem in recruiting young men who are ready to die, knowing that they will be received in paradise," the politician said. **AFP**

Sticking to the facts

IN CASTIGATING the media for the persistence of coup rumors, Presidential Spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao was reported to have lectured journalists to stick to the facts. But it seems Tiglao is not heeding his own advice when he dismissed the results of the latest IBON Foundation Inc. survey, showing the tenuous hold of the Macapagal administration on Metro Manila residents, as a mere handiwork of "an ideologically leftwing group."

Tiglao's outburst is understandable. Being a paid defender of no less than the country's President, he is expected to parry all criticisms hurled against his employer. But unfortunately for Tiglao, the manner by which he trivialized the people's opinion expressed in the IBON survey has only made him a serious liability to the Macapagal leadership.

More unfortunate is Tiglao's red-baiting of IBON, making himself the first government official to have done so in the 23-year history of the institution. (We wonder now how Tiglao would be any different from

Sen. Panfilo Lacson who has called him a card-carrying communist, to describe all those accusing the senator of criminal activities.)

Had Tiglao just paid attention to the facts, he would have refrained from comparing the results of the IBON survey to those of Pulse Asia, the only one that he said was "reputable," and the Social Weather Stations, which both gave President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo high approval ratings.

The recent surveys by the last two agencies were conducted on a nationwide basis while the IBON survey was limited to Metro Manila. The difference in the results can only be attributed to Metro Manila residents being more sensitive to the political and economic crisis besetting the country because of their proximity to the seat of power.

Besides, who can contest the deterioration of the economic situation as expressed by Metro Manila respondents in the IBON survey, which even Malacañang had used as justification when it refused to grant the workers' demand

for a living wage?

For more than 10 years, IBON has been doing surveys that strictly adhere to scientific methods. Its surveys are conducted by trained sociologists using the stratified random sampling method. More important, IBON conducts its surveys as a matter of public interest, not on a commissioned basis.

But for Tiglao, the unfavorable results of the IBON survey were to be expected because IBON is one institution that "do(es) not support any government at all."

We would like to reiterate that as an independent research institution, IBON analyzes public policies and criticizes those that are harmful to the Filipino people, especially the poor. We are not antigovernment but are critical to administrations that fail to address the fundamental economic problems faced by the country.—ROSARIO BELLA GUZMAN, executive director, IBON Foundation Inc., Rm. 303, SCC Bldg., 4427 Int., Old Sta. Mesa, Manila

Second look urged on SSS, GSIS cases

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo should take a second look at the cases involving the Social Security System and the Government Service Insurance System to assure the public that she is really serious in her campaign against graft and corruption.

Recently, Eufemio Domingo resigned from the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission (PAGC), charging that the President has no program against corruption for him to implement. Also, Domingo criticized President Macapagal for appointing a young labor lawyer as executive di-

rector whom Domingo found to be too young for the job and not fit to supervise subordinates twice his age.

It is good that the President accepted the irrevocable resignation of Domingo, who slept on the SSS and GSIS cases pending before his office.

The President should now reexamine her personnel in the PAGC and fire the unqualified people who slept on their jobs and who were not able to draft a comprehensive anti-graft program.—JOSE PEBO, jose_pebo@yahoo.com

Inhospitable dollar deposit rates

THE PHILIPPINES is hurting badly from the strength of the dollar as the peso goes to the ICU hoping for a transfusion which is not coming as government bonds are rated as "junk," according to a finance report. So, why bother with dollars anyway?

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corp. dollar deposit rate in

Manila is near nil at 1.8 percent, which is less than inflation. So, you get nothing and pay a 7.5-percent withholding tax on it. That's for big amounts over months. For daily deposits the rate is one percent. Why bother to have dollars? Are banks profiting?—EARL K. WILKINSON, Makati City

Horror stories about postal service

I WRITE about the sad state of the Philippine postal service or whatever it has become after privatization. I'm sure I'm not the only one with horror stories but I have a few to tell.

It used to take about two weeks for a letter mailed from the United States to get to its intended recipient in the Philippines and vice versa. This has changed drastically about a few years ago, especially

after the postal service was privatized.

In 1999, I went home and stayed a few months. During that period, my mom had to send over some documents that I needed to sign for immigration. It took a month before I received them.

I sent them back the same way (which was stupid of me), and a month and a half later, I was back in the United States and my mom had

Tuberculosis a threat to most households

WE can never control tuberculosis because of the following reasons: We cannot deliver the necessary intervention; there is poor compliance; there are strains resistant to medicines; there is still the social stigma associated with the disease; and more importantly, there is not enough awareness about the disease.

People are not aware that the incidence of TB in Metro Manila can range from 50 to 80 percent. As an example, after our first child contracted primary complex (which is also tuberculosis),

we had to painfully force the child to drink the medicine for several months. We required our house help to have a chest X-ray, especially the *yayas*. Over the course of three years, four out of 10 applicants refused to have an X-ray and looked for jobs elsewhere. Among the six who agreed, three had active tuberculosis and had to be refused employment.

People are not aware that TB is highly communicable and that they can get it even from a healthy-looking individual. It would be safe to

assume that you can gather people in a mall, have them X-rayed, and you would be able to diagnose TB in some of them.

My advice as a first step is for employers to require their house help to have an X-ray at a reputable hospital or laboratory. This will prevent the spread of the disease in the household. Keep TB in mind because there is a real danger from this disease.—RENE C. LACANILAO, M.D., The Medical City, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City

I am not going to go into details

not received them yet. I had to fill out another form and send it. It took another month for the mail to arrive.

My mom went home for a reunion last February. A month before she left, she sent some pictures. She arrived, stayed for a month and went back to the United States. Her package arrived in the Philippines a month later.

I received two letters from the Philippines recently. It took almost a month and a half to get here.

A postal service is supposed to make life easier for everybody. Its efficiency is a sign of a developing and organized country. Imagine

about the greeting cards that were opened (probably to check if there was any money, and they were opened with a blade), lost or simply didn't arrive on time.

I received two letters from the Philippines recently. It took almost a month and a half to get here.

A postal service is supposed to make life easier for everybody. Its efficiency is a sign of a developing and organized country. Imagine

when an ordinary Filipino doesn't have to go through the hassle of riding a jeep, deal with traffic and pollution and long lines just to pay a phone or electricity bill.

But with the current condition of the Philippine postal service, sending payment through the mail will only ensure that they will get it late. Worse, it may not even get there.—RANDY DUMAPLIN, RDUMA PLN@bak.rr.com

To restore faith in the judiciary

ANACLETO Badoy Jr. is God-sent just like Ninoy Aquino, Chavit Singson, Victor Corpus, Mary "Rosebud" Ong and the rest of many witnesses wishing to testify against the evils of the Marcoses, Estradas and Lacsons. God will never forsake us.

On the other hand, the Philippines is a praying nation. As Jaime Cardinal Sin once said, "Do not expect to do all things by yourself, leave something for God." How very true and once again, God has sent us an honest Sandiganbayan justice

to return our confidence in the judiciary.

There is no doubt there are moves to exonerate deposed President Estrada. The temptation of big narco-money is very effective and now established in our government and country.

Only God can help us now because man is weak in all forms of temptation. We must pray more than ever and "leave something for God."—SERGIO J. MONTINOLA, 231 Recoletos St., Urdaneta Village, Makati City

Humorous portrayal of gays

I WOULD like to comment on the reactions expressed by gays in the separate articles written by Rina Jimenez-David ("Billy's friend and the running man," PDI, 10/18/01) and Michael Tan ("Goodbye, Billy," PDI, 10/23/01) to PLDT's "Billy" commercials regarding the characterization of gays.

They were overreacting to an innocently humorous portrayal of a gay. I don't think PLDT or the advertising agency which made the commercial had any intention of maligning gays or making them the laughingstock of everyone.

The gay character is perfect for this generation since gays in all forms, shapes and sizes are more accepted today than they were in the past. They are very popular in our society because they play significant roles now, a fact that makes them good subjects for TV and movie stories or commercials.

One aspect of human behavior was depicted in that advertisement and it only happens that a gay assumed the role. Just like any other human being, nobody knows what a gay is capable of doing in a fit of jealousy, anger or pain. Behavior knows no gender. The character of the gay in the advertisement is one speck in a whole continuum of the gay community. Even Billy himself can be gay, because gays are as diverse as any man or woman. There are gays like Billy who would please their parents by marrying girls to make them think they are the sons they want them to be and yet have a relationship with men to satisfy their homosexual proclivities.

I agree with Tan that underneath our society's pretense of being tolerant with gays, there are still many people who are prejudiced. Even gays can be biased against other gays. If those gays mentioned in the columns want respect, they should first realize that respect begets respect. It's not something that they just demand; it should be earned. There are a lot of prominent gays in various fields who are respected because they truly deserve respect.

Gay or not gay, the advertisement is replete with wit and humor for contemporary Filipinos.—JOJO LIMOSNERO, isljojo@yahoo.com

The WORLD

LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

Afghans hold their ground

JABAL SARAJ, Afghanistan—US warplanes bombarded Taliban front lines, while the opposition pressed its attack on three fronts near Mazar-e-Sharif—but the rebel fighters conceded Monday that they were facing stiff resistance from Taliban defenders.

One rebel spokesperson said US planes were trying to help the opposition, attacking Taliban positions every 15 minutes.

In this dusty outpost 60 km north of Kabul, opposition leaders including deposed president Burhanuddin Rabbani reviewed their troops and declared they

would soon march on the capital.

"You are bravely defending your country against the evil triangle of Pakistan, the Taliban and Osama bin Laden," a senior commander, Bismillah Khan, told the troops.

President George W. Bush launched air strikes against Afghanistan on Oct. 7 after the ruling Taliban refused to hand over Bin Laden for his alleged role in the September terrorist attacks which killed 5,000 people in the United States.

Pakistan supports the air campaign, but the alliance deeply resents the country's role in helping the Taliban rise to power.

Elsewhere in Afghanistan, US warplanes Monday hammered away at Taliban positions outside the northern city of Taloqan and near the southern city of Kandahar.

B-52 bombers struck at three separate sites about 50 km northeast of Taloqan, near the country's northern border with Tajikistan, Mohammed Abil, a spokesperson for the opposition northern alliance, said in a telephone interview.

Taloqan served as the opposition capital until Taliban troops overran it in September 2000, a major setback for the northern alliance. The alliance is seeking to reclaim the town, but has not been able to make any major advances.

In other attacks-related developments:

• A small group of American military personnel is in Tajikistan assessing the possibility of using at least three bases there to expand the US bombing campaign and strengthen support for Afghan opposition forces, a US official said Monday.

• American planes dropped 34,000 packets of food over Afghanistan overnight, bringing the total number of rations dropped so far to more than 1.2 million, an Air Force spokesperson said Monday in Germany.

• Taliban chief spokesperson Amir Khan Muttaqi said the Islamic militia was "preparing for a long war" and challenged the United States to send ground troops to Afghanistan "to fight us face to face." AP



VICTIM OF WAR: Afghan refugee boy Surdar Mohammad walks through the hills of Chaman, Pakistan, toward his home built from mud Nov. 5. Mohammad lives with his family in a UN refugee camp near the Pakistan-Afghan border. REUTERS

Anthrax found at Pentagon; test developed

WASHINGTON—Anthrax turned up in a Pentagon post office and authorities delayed using a potent gas to decontaminate a Senate office building on Monday, while scientists unveiled a DNA test that could speed the detection of the dangerous germ warfare bacterium.

Hospital worker and Vietnamese immigrant Kathy Nguyen, the fourth person to die of anthrax since Oct. 5, was mourned in a funeral service in New York City as authorities remained baffled about how she contracted the disease.

But Norma Wallace, a New Jersey postal worker who beat the most deadly form of anthrax, offered words of encouragement as she checked out of a hospital. A state department employee still hospitalized in Virginia with inhalation anthrax made sufficient improvement to be taken out of intensive care.

A spate of letters laced with powdery anthrax spores has been sent by unknown perpetrators through the US mail since the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States. There have been 17 confirmed anthrax cases in what President George W. Bush has called a second wave of terrorism after the attacks on New York and Washington that killed about 4,800 people.

Public post office

Authorities said traces of anthrax were found in two mail rental boxes at a public post office located inside the Pentagon, which was damaged on Sept. 11 by a hijacked airliner. The post office was decontaminated and no further signs of the spores were found.

The post office was examined because its mail comes from the central processing facility in Washington that handled an anthrax-tainted letter to Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle last month. Two employees at that facility died of anthrax.

The Pentagon post office is used by many of the 23,000 military and civilian workers at the mammoth US Defense Department headquarters across the Potomac River from Washington in Arlington, Virginia.

Pentagon spokesperson Glenn Flood said the two positive samples at the post office were among 17 taken at the facility on Oct. 30 and were found in two rental mailboxes, one unassigned and one rented by a sailor who is being tested for possible anthrax exposure. The facility was decontaminated over the weekend and remained closed despite being given a clean bill of health, authorities said.

Anthrax has been found in numerous other federal buildings and post offices across the Washington area.

The tainted letter sent to Daschle was opened on Oct. 15 in his office in the Hart Senate Office Building, which is set to remain shut until completion of a cleanup by the Environmental Protection Agency, which had been expected to end on Nov. 13.

But EPA spokesperson Patrick Boyle said plans to decontaminate the entire Hart building with chlorine dioxide gas have been shelved due to concerns expressed by some experts that the method would not work on such a large scale.

"They concur with the technology of gassing but are skeptical it would be effective in a large building like that and that there could be other problems associated with it. They suggested we proceed more incrementally and not gas the building in one fell swoop," said Boyle.

Boyle said the EPA had begun using "more standard technology" such as wiping with bleach. "That's not to say we are going to rule out the use of the gas but basically the decision has not been made to do that full scale," he added.

New test for anthrax

A leading medical research institute, the Rochester, Minnesota-based Mayo Clinic, announced that it had developed a test for anthrax that works in one hour and can be used both on people and in the environment. Current tests can take days.

The DNA-based test uses technology developed by Swiss drug maker Roche Holding AG to look quickly for DNA from the anthrax bacteria that cause anthrax.

"Until now, local labs have been able to quickly determine the presence of a bacterium, but they can't tell whether it is anthrax or not," said Mayo Clinic microbiologist Dr. Franklin Cockerill. "The current process to identify the presence of anthrax may take several days. The events of the last several weeks require as rapid a response as possible." REUTERS



BPI FAMILY BANK

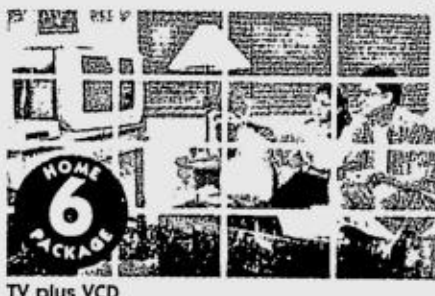


HAPPY FAMILY HOUSING LOAN

EASY LOAN Gifts to Own?



BEDROOM SET



TV plus VCD



LIVING ROOM SET



WASHING MACHINE with FLAT IRON



DINING SET



MICROWAVE and COFFEEMAKER

**Avail of a Happy Family Housing Loan
from October 1 to November 29, 2001
and get home appliances or furniture -- FREE!**

Apply now and discover the FAST, EASY and AFFORDABLE way to owning your dream home.

FAST 5-day credit decision

EASY to qualify with only P30,000 minimum monthly income requirement

AFFORDABLE low, low rates

PROMO MECHANICS

- Book a Happy Family Housing Loan from October 1 to November 29, 2001 (even those with previously approved but unutilized applications are qualified).
- To qualify for the promo, purpose of loan should be any of the following:
 - Purchase of Lot, House and Lot, Town House or Condominium
 - House Construction
 - Home Renovation
 - Re-financing of existing loans with other banks
 - Multi-purpose Loan
- This offer is valid in the Greater Metro Manila Area as well as those covered by the BPI Family Bank Business Centers.
- The amount of booked "Easy Loan Gifts to Own" housing loan is equivalent to a Home Package which corresponds to certain appliances or furniture sets:

Housing Loan Amount	Easy Loan Gift Package
P 400,000 to P 1,999,999.99	Washing Machine with Flat Iron
P 2M to P 3,999,999.99	Microwave Oven and Coffeemaker
P 4M to P 5,999,999.99	Bedroom Set
P 6M to P 7,999,999.99	Dining Set
P 8M to P 9,999,999.99	Living Room Set
P 10M and above	50.8 cm (20") TV plus VCD Player

- Claim certificates will be released together with the loan documents after each booking.
- Gifts can be claimed at designated redemption centers.
- Redemption of prizes is until January 31, 2002. After such date, unclaimed gifts will be forfeited in favor of BPI Family Bank with prior DTI approval.
- Should the client require delivery of appliances / furniture, delivery fees will be charged to the client's account.

- In case client's gift items are temporarily out of stock, client will be advised by the redemption center as to when specific item will be available or client may choose another item of equivalent value.
- This offer cannot be combined with other ongoing offers of BPI / BPI Family Bank.
- All employees of BPI UNIBANK, its subsidiaries and its advertising agency are disqualified from joining the promo.
- In the event of lost claim certificate, rewards will be forfeited in favor of BPI Family Bank.
- Prizes are neither transferable nor convertible to cash.
- In cases of dispute, the decision of BPI Family Bank, with the concurrence of DTI, shall be deemed final.

Make the right choice and get your Happy Family Housing Loan from BPI Family Bank today!

CALL ► 845-6888
VISIT ► www.bpidirect.com
DROP BY ► Your nearest BPI and BPI Family Bank branch or any Express Banking Center.

BPI Family Bank Provincial Business Centers:
Dagupan: (075) 522-0372/73, 523-4679 • San Fernando, Pampanga: (045) 961-9943 • Lipa: (043) 757-1000/02 • Cebu: (032) 254-0895/97
Iloilo: (033) 335-0829 • Bacolod: (034) 435-0639, 433-8032
Cagayan De Oro: (0882) 726-067 • Davao: (082) 224-0931/34



BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS
A tradition of leadership

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3280 Series of 2001.

Company says its dialysis filters may have caused patient deaths

CHICAGO—Baxter International Inc. says that chemical residue in its recalled dialysis filters appears to have played a role in many of 51 recent deaths being investigated around the world.

Baxter said Monday that it has idled two plants and discontinued the product. Bracing for more lawsuits from kidney patients' families, it is earmarking \$100 million to \$150 million for litigation and related expenses.

The statement marked a turnaround by the medical products maker, which previously said it found nothing to indicate its products

were at fault in the dialysis patients' deaths under review, mostly in Europe.

The US Food and Drug Administration and other health authorities are investigating 51 deaths from this summer and fall—23 in Croatia last month, 15 in Spain, seven in Taiwan, four in the United States and two in Colombia. All were using dialysis filters, or dialyzers, which help remove waste from the blood of patients with failed kidneys.

Baxter, which recalled the filters in mid-October, said preliminary tests completed over the weekend led it to conclude that a

chemical used in routine testing at its plant in Ronneby, Sweden, may have played a role in many of the deaths.

The fluid, a chemical solution known as 5070, is used to test for leaks and somehow was not fully removed from all filters before they were packaged and shipped, the company said. The chemical then evidently entered patients' bloodstreams, officials indicated.

"The solution should not be in the dialyzer after the safety check has been carried out," said Lee Henderson, a Baxter dialysis expert and retired scientist. "We need further

investigation to identify precisely how that has occurred."

Baxter said it is stopping production of all three dialysis product lines made at the Swedish plant, including the Series A and AF dialyzers, which it recalled last month.

The Ronneby factory and another Baxter plant in the United States that makes filters used in the filters, have been idled; company officials said they have not yet decided whether to make other products there or close them for good. Altogether, they employ about 300 people. AP



MATISSE PIECE

REUTERS

The Henri Matisse statue, *Deux Nèresses*, which will be part of the collection auctioned at Christie's in New York on Nov. 6, is shown in this undated photograph. Artworld eyes are on the auction houses Christie's, Sotheby's and Phillips this week as they head into their big fall sales amid a flagging economy.

Fighting rages in Chechnya

MOSCOW—Russian helicopter gunships rocketed Chechen separatist positions on Monday after rebels killed two Russian officers in a wave of weekend fighting that overshadowed prospects for planned peace talks.

Russian news agencies said the gunships pounded guerrilla hideouts in the North Caucasus region's mountainous south, killing at least a dozen people. Rebels attacked checkpoints and launched bomb attacks on Russian vehicles.

The fresh violence cast a shadow over a planned meeting between Akhmed Zakayev, a senior aide to Chechnya's separatist President Aslan Maskhadov and Viktor Kazantsev, President Vladimir Putin's envoy in southern Russia.

Moscow had agreed to hold talks with the rebels only after months of stonewalling.

Sergei Yastrzhembsky, the Kremlin's top spokesperson on Chechnya, appeared to play down the talks, saying in New York late on Monday that Moscow thought the meeting could take place as soon as this month but was "simply a meeting and not a political dialogue."

Yastrzhembsky told a news conference at the Russian consulate that Moscow wanted the meeting to focus on the rebels laying down their arms, but the two sides are still arguing over the agenda.

Apart from insisting the talks take place on Russian soil, Moscow had no preconditions for the talks, Yastrzhembsky said.

According to official figures, almost 3,500 Russian soldiers have been killed in Chechnya since Putin sent in troops to restore order there in October 1999, promising never to talk to the rebels. In previous fighting from 1994-96, tens of thousands of soldiers and civilians died. Reuters

WORLD BRIEFS

Trader defeats Ortega

MANAGUA, Nicaragua—A 73-year-old businessman who suffered expropriation and prison under the Sandinistas won Nicaragua's presidency over Daniel Ortega, the Sandinista candidate who was trying for a comeback 11 years after losing power. Supporters of Enrique Bolanos chanted "Strike out! Strike out!" on Monday as they celebrated, using a baseball metaphor to describe Ortega's third straight election defeat as his elimination from the political game. "Nicaragua is the winner, because we have taken another step toward the consolidation of democracy," Bolanos said. He called the Sandinistas "worthy and able opponents" and said they showed "respect for the institutions of democracy." AP



BOLANOS

2nd artificial heart patient

WASHINGTON—Doctors from the University of Louisville in Kentucky announced Monday that the second man to receive a new artificial heart has developed health problems. Tom Christerson, 70, of Central City, Kentucky, "was running high fevers last week, which spiked at 107 (41.6 degrees) on Friday," said doctor Laman Gray, one of the surgeons involved in the project. The fever went down to the low 100s (38 degrees) by Monday, according to Gray. "His chest X-rays and cultures have all come back 100 percent normal," said the surgeon. "There is no obvious evidence of infection." He said that at this point the medical team was treating the complication as an "acute, reversible situation." Christerson received his AbioCor artificial heart in September. He followed in the footsteps of Robert Tools, 59, who was the first patient to receive an AbioCor heart July 2. AFP

Arafat, Peres meet

JERUSALEM—Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres joined European Union officials for an informal gathering in Brussels amid signs Israel was trying to sideline Arafat closer to home. "There were no negotiations and no decisions," an Israeli source said after the meeting, which Belgian Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt hosted at his residence late on Monday. Neither Peres nor Arafat, in the Belgian capital for a EU-Mediterranean conference, spoke to reporters afterwards. A Belgian government spokesperson said the 90-minute session was aimed at restoring some confidence between Israel and the Palestinians and "was carried out on the basis of security proposals put forward by the (Belgian) EU presidency." Peres and Arafat last met, but did not hold talks, at a Middle East economic conference on the Spanish holiday island of Majorca over the weekend. A Peres aide insisted the informal meeting in Brussels did not constitute peace talks which Israel has said could be held only after Arafat cracked down on Islamic militants behind attacks on Israelis. Reuters

**Now!
National
gives you
2-door
Power Savers**



Enjoy time and power savings from National's new line of 2-door Power Saver refs. These Manual and Semi-Automatic Defrost Models are certified to have a high **Energy Efficiency Factor**. That's a lot of time and power savings for the whole family. Our Semi-Automatic line comes with the signature **Quick-Defrost Function** which defrosts 3x faster in just one push of a button. Plus, see how our new Wine Rose Color can accent your kitchen!

Go Ahead. Feel The Life. You deserve a **National**.



**National
CHRISTMAS
GIFTS!**



FREE
88-PIECE
FOODKEEPER SET

With every purchase of any
National Refrigerator or Microwave Oven.
Hurry! Promo runs from November 11 - December 31, 2001 only.
See posters for details.

Per DTI-NCR permit no. 3604 series of 2001.
www.nationalpanasonic.com.ph

National

Australia poll campaign branded xenophobic



ABU the elephant casts her "vote" in this lighthearted reminder to vote from the Australian Electoral Commission. Australians will go to the polls on Nov. 10, to determine the country's next prime minister. REUTERS

SYDNEY—Australia's election campaign now in its final four days was widely criticized on Tuesday by the media, business leaders, former diplomats and voters as xenophobic and dragging the nation to a political low.

Major newspapers slammed both conservative Prime Minister John Howard and opposition Labor leader Kim Beazley for offering voters nothing and campaigning on an anti-boat people platform.

"This election has been quite ugly, with its undertones of xenophobia and the boat people a political football," said The Sydney Morning Herald's chief political writer, Michelle Gratton.

The Australian Financial Review accused the government of an "unparalleled pursuit of voters, especially One Nation voters, through its racist and sectarian border protection policy."

The policy of turning back out to sea rickety Indonesian boats carrying

asylum seekers was adopted in late August and is defended as necessary to protect Australia's borders.

Pauline Hanson, leader of xenophobic One Nation, has claimed the government has adopted her policy of rejecting boat people.

The policy has been prime minister Howard's political savior. Howard faced certain electoral defeat in January, but his stance against boat people has seen his electoral stock soar and he now slightly leads Labor ahead of Saturday's election.

The Australian newspaper said Howard realized earlier in the year that "most Australians had tired of him" after five years in office and that only "a contrived war against boat people" had put him back in the electoral race.

John Menadue, former chief executive of national airline Qantas, said Howard had appealed to "parochialism and racism" to save his political career. "I am appalled at the behavior of the

prime minister and the way the Labor party has knuckled under to the scaremongering," he said. "To attack vulnerable, outcast, weak people is cowardice."

Menadue rejected Howard's argument that Australia faced a refugee crisis with some 5,000 mostly Middle East boat people arriving on its shores each year, citing 20 million refugees worldwide and 60,000 visitors, mainly British and American, overstaying their visas each year in Australia.

"We haven't got a crisis in refugees. The numbers coming in are quite trivial ...," he said.

Former ambassador to Indonesia Richard Woolcott also criticized Howard, saying his "hairy-chested" approach to boat people was damaging relations in Asia.

"We are witnessing in Australia a tragic recrudescence of those old barbarisms: racism, religious intolerance and jingoism," Woolcott wrote on Tuesday in the Herald. REUTERS

Many states set to dump Microsoft antitrust deal

WASHINGTON—Many of the 18 US states suing Microsoft Corp., including California and Massachusetts, are prepared to reject as inadequate the antitrust settlement negotiated between the software giant and the United States Justice Department, people close to the discussions said.

The decision, expected to be announced Tuesday at a US District Court hearing, spoils hopes by Microsoft and the Bush administration for a speedy resolution. The judge indicated that, absent full agreement by all the states, she would move into the trial's next stage to determine the penalties to impose on Microsoft.

The dramatic rift in the coalition of states grew Monday during intense lobbying over how to proceed, with some states hinting they were inclined to settle. Trying to preserve the fragile negotiations, the court-appointed mediator, Eric Green of Boston, met Monday with officials from New York, Ohio, Connecticut, California, Iowa and Massachusetts. Separately, conference calls among states continued until nearly midnight.

"We're going to get some evidence whether any of the states have the will and resources to take the case to closure," said antitrust expert Andrew Gavil of Howard University in Washington, DC.

The settlement, already negotiated between Microsoft and the Justice Department, requires the company to provide technical details to help rivals make products compatible with its monopoly Windows operating system and to give an oversight panel full access to its books and plans for five years. It also bans exclusive contracts with computer makers that would put rival software vendors at a disadvantage.

But critics portray the 21-page agreement as rife with loopholes, such as one clause that permits Microsoft to restore, after 14 days, any changes made to Windows by computer makers. It also allows Microsoft to maintain the secrecy of any technical details of its anti-piracy, security, antivirus or encryption technology.

The attorney general in California, Bill Lockyer, has become one of the harshest critics of the settlement. Since his state can more easily afford the continuing court fight, he has also emerged as a key coordinator in the continuing case. Lockyer, whose state is home to Silicon Valley and many of Microsoft's toughest rivals, confidently predicted that most of the 18 states would reject the settlement at today's court hearing. AP

"Sorry, Sir. Mamaya pa ang suweldo. Hindi pa tapos ang computation ..."

Next time, use MSI Payroll System

The Metrosoft Payroll System automatically computes wages, deductions and overtime.

The MSI Payroll System accommodates different pay types, overtime and loan deduction schemes. It generates tax (BIR) forms and welfare organization (SSS, Pag-IBIG, PHIC and Insurance) schedules; not to mention one of its most vital functions: computes year-end tax adjustments, prints the BIR Form 1604CF (Alphabet Report) and other annual recaps that would be most difficult to prepare without the MSI Payroll System. The System is so efficient, it will drastically cut downtime, leaving your accounting staff free for other, equally important, tasks.

Running a successful operation is your business. Making IT easy for you is ours. We do that through Efficient Data Management, that's our business. We make Information Technology easy with a wide range of programs that simplify all aspects of day-to-day operations. Nine years of service to more than 900 successful companies, have built us a reputation - unparalleled in the business world for all reports-generating Metrosoft Programs.

MSI Daily Time Recording System

Eliminates tedious manual time recording. Accommodates variable work hours and shifting schedules.

MSI Personnel Information System

For comprehensive employee data in an instant.

Profit Point-of-Sale System

Close all sales with as much efficiency and speed. Auto-computes discounts and commissions.

Profit Inventory System

Provides up-to-the-minute inventory reports. For single or multi-warehouse inventories.

Profit Purchase System

For systematic and orderly acquisitions. May be interfaced with the Profit Inventory System.

Profit Sales System

Controls all sales transactions. Best for stores, boutiques and other sales outlets.

The next time you prepare payroll computations, make IT easy with MSI Payroll System.

LG1 Cityland 9 Dela Rosa Condominium Barangay Pio del Pilar 7648 Dela Rosa Street Makati City 1230 Metro Manila Philippines Tel Nos: 892-2798 > 892-2808 > 892-4530 / 36 > 894-1043 > 894-1525 Fax No: 892-2795 E-Mail: msi@uplink.com.ph

METROSOFT

TO LEARN THE MOST, LEARN FROM THE BEST



and **INFORMATICS**

Present

**The University of California
Berkeley Extension Seminar Series
in Manila**

e-Business Seminar Series

- The Strategies and Technologies of e-Business : Nov 12-13 2001
- Successful Implementation of your e-Business Strategy : Jan 21-22 2002
- e-Marketing and e-Sales Strategies that Work : Mar 11-12 2002

Telecommunications Seminar Series

- Technology Fundamentals for Telecommunications : Dec 10-11 2001
- Key Technologies and Applications for Wireless Telecommunications : Feb 18-19 2002
- New Frontiers in Digital Telecommunications & Multimedia : Apr 1-2 2002

Venue: The Manila Peninsula



Edward Lewis, MS, MA, MBA



Richard Scudlifer, PhD



Regis Bates



Hussain Khaleel, MBA



Dale Fodness, PhD



Dustin Gross, MBA



Bradley Betts, PhD



Debbie Kelley, PhD

Gain inside knowledge from UCBE industry experts whose credentials span multinational corporations across the globe. Obtain University of California Berkeley Extension Certificates without leaving the country -- valuable credentials in the workplace. This is a most sound investment ideal for high-level executives in any industry and absolutely essential for those in e-Business and Telecommunications.

UCBE HOTLINE : 727-7407 / FAX NO.: 722-9490 E-mail address : ucbeseminar@informatics.net.ph or register online at www.informaticsgroup.com/ucbe

Northern Luzon Bureau
Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
10 Happy Glen Loop, Baguio City
Tel. No. (074) 443-9255
Fax No. (074) 443-8871
E-mail: lnq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

Southern Luzon Bureau
23 Aurora St., Old Albay District
Legazpi City
Tel. No. (052) 820-8402
Fax No. (052) 820-1274
E-mail: lnq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

Visayas Bureau
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail: pdvisas@skynet.net

Mindanao Bureau
FEP Printing Corp. Bldg.
Ma-a Road, Davao City
Tel. Nos. (032) 244-1770 to 71
Fax no. (032) 244-1771
E-mail: pdmind@dv.weblnq.com

Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

Anti-drug vigilante group strikes in Digos

DIGOS CITY—Just as the so-called Davao Death Squad (DDS) vigilante group surprisingly ceased its summary execution activities in Davao City last October after 15 deaths, a similar vigilante group has resumed its operations here.

City officials expressed concern on the resumption of the activities of the alleged Digos Death Squad after several suspected pushers were shot in the last few days.

Digos Vice Mayor Joseph Penas said not all of those killed were suspected to be involved in drugs.

"There was one case of mistaken identity," Penas said.

Last week, three suspected pushers were killed, one of whom was a woman, who was shot by motorcycle riding hit men in front of her two children.

Their latest target survived.

Virgilio Erasmo was walking at Sitio Abuno, Barangay Aplaya on Sunday, when three men on board a Honda TMX motorcycle fired at him six times.

But Erasmo, 47, sensed the attempt on his life, and managed to run for safety.

The suspects, who used 9mm pistols escaped after the shooting.

In an interview, Erasmo denied being a drug pusher but admitted he uses drugs.

"The killings were unusual, in the past it did not happen that two or three were shot dead in the streets," said a Digos resident.

Penas, who condemned the killings, said "we adhere to the rule of law" and it was inhuman to cut short the lives of

suspected drug pushers without due process of law.

He denied rumors that Mayor Arsenio Latasa, like Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte, is protecting the DDS.

Suspicion about Latasa's involvement first came about in May when he said he welcomes the vigilantes, if they ever existed.

A few days after that statement, motorcycle-riding gunmen went on a killing spree, targeting suspected drug pushers. Until late June, the toll was 14.

Davao del Sur first district Rep. Douglas Cagas said he was informed of the similarity in the pattern used by the Digos killers and their counterparts in Davao City.

"I really do not know what it is, but I suggest they (pushers) should stop their illegal activities," Cagas said.

In Cagayan de Oro City, a convicted drug pusher became the second victim of suspected vigilantes here in the city.

The victim, Allan Lopez, 30, a resident of Barangay 34 here, was shot twice at about 11:15 p.m. Sunday by two motorcycle-riding gunmen.

The suspects wore black masks, sweatshirts and pants, witnesses said.

Lopez was convicted this year for shabu pushing. He was out of jail on probation. Since 1995, two cases of theft and two cases of highway robbery were filed against Lopez. All these cases, however, were either dismissed or provisionally dismissed.

Anthony Allada, Ellen Red and Grace Cantal-Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau



CONFLICT

Members of the Moro National Liberation Front under the leadership of ARMM Gov. Nur Misuari display their firearms during the 5th Bangsamoro Congress in Parang, Jolo last Saturday. (See story on p. 15)

Class suit filed vs airport deal

ANGELES CITY—More than 1,000 taxpayers in Pampanga trooped to the regional trial court here on Tuesday and filed a class suit seeking to annul the \$750-million Ninoy Aquino International Airport's Terminal 3 contract between the government and the Philippine International Air Terminals Co. Inc. (Piatco). The taxpayers, represented by their co-plaintiff Angeles City Councilor Alex Caguiran, said they filed the complaint because they wanted the Clark International Airport, now known as the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport, to operate fully.

They asked the court to order

Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez, Piatco officials and Manila International Airport Authority General Manager Edgardo Manda to desist from implementing the project's 1998 amended concession agreement.

In their 16-page complaint, they said the defendants "acted in gross and evident bad faith, conspired with one another in entering into such illegal contract."

The plaintiffs, claiming to also represent some 3 million taxpayers in Central Luzon, likewise asked for P2 million in moral damages.

Civil Case No. 10354 reached the court after the taxpayers, together

with the Pinoy Gumising Ka Movement and the Move Clark Now, had unsuccessfully lobbied the government to terminate the Terminal 3 contract during the last three years.

Pampanga legislators, in two bills filed since the 11th Congress, have also sought Clark's full development and operation, with Rep. Oscar Rodriguez asking Piatco to transfer instead its terminal project to Clark.

In the complaint, the taxpayers called attention to "highly prejudicial" conditions of the contract, which was amended and supplemented thrice during the Estrada administration.

Terms granting Piatco the exclusive right to operate a terminal in three years barred the DMIA from improving its terminal. The terms also limited DMIA's 1.5-million passenger capacity every year to only 850,000.

Piatco and Alvarez, in past news reports, defended the contract, insisting that it did not stunt DMIA's development.

The agreement, according to the complainants, "stifled" the development of DMIA.

"It would even further stagnate it to the damage and prejudice of plaintiffs whose hopes of economic prosperity are anchored on the

promised development of (the former) Clark International Airport into a premier international airport," they said.

Former President Fidel Ramos outlined this plan in Executive Order No. 173 to optimize the military airport that the United States left during Clark's closure in 1991. The 2,500-hectare airport has two 3.2-km runways, rehabilitated on a P1.3-billion budget starting in 1993. The Piatco deal was originally signed during Ramos' term but without the exclusive provisions, copy of the original contract showed.

The complainants considered the DMIA their "catalyst for a bet-

ter life," which the agreement was "sweeping in the dustbin of oblivion."

They said the "end result would be loss of economic opportunities, job opportunities and employment, a dormant business climate and economic reverses for plaintiffs."

The complainants also called attention to the contract's violations of constitutional provision against monopoly, Civil Code provision on contracts prioritizing public interest and base conversion law provisions on economic and social development of Central Luzon. *Tonette Orjas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Prober who filed junked case faces probe

BY JHUNNEX NAPALLACAN
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Deputy Ombudsman for the Visayas Primo Miro is in hot water for approving the filing of a case against three officials of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) when he had already dismissed the same case for lack of jurisdiction.

Representatives of 23 non-government organizations (NGOs) signed a petition asking Ombudsman Aniano Desierto to investigate Miro for "violating (the Ombudsman Visayas) standard (of) good government."

The group also raised suspicion that there was money involved in the filing of graft charges against three DAR officials who were instrumental in awarding land titles to seven farmers of Lamintak, Medellin town, 119 kilometers

northwest of here.

Desierto yesterday said he has not received a copy of the petition, which was faxed by the group on Monday afternoon.

He, however, promised to investigate Miro. He said his office's fact-finding and intelligence bureau would conduct the investigation.

Desierto appealed to the NGO leaders not to go public with their accusation against Miro and the Ombudsman-Visayas because the allegations could damage the anti-graft office if these later turn out to be false.

Miro welcomed the investigation saying the decision was made because the DAR officials violated the law and not because of any monetary consideration.

Miro approved the filing of graft charges against Virgilio Alcomendras, DAR provincial chief; Odette Mariano, acting chief of DAR's task force Visayas; and Linda Sosan Baring, chief of the DAR-Cebu legal division.

The three were accused of conniving with 20 farmers to enter into the 93-hectare property of the ADA Agriculture and Development Corp. in Lamintak Sur, Medellin.

The farmers are facing a separate case of forcible entry. They have a pending application before the DAR to be among the beneficiaries of the property.

The case was later filed at the Regional Trial Court Branch 61 in Bogo City. The court issued arrest warrants against the DAR officials who immediately posted bail.

In their petition, the NGO leaders said the filing of the charges was irregular because Miro had junked the same case for lack of jurisdiction. The same case was pending at the DAR.

The group claimed that a former Cebu City councilor caused the reopening of the case.

"This was not the first time that he exerted his influence on the decision-making process within the Office of the Ombudsman for the Visayas. The

rumors of money changing hands cannot be ignored either," the group said.

But Miro said the decision to file the case came after Ombudsman Director Edgar Canton noticed an error in the resolution of the panel of investigators to terminate the case.

"Canton saw a particular issue that was never rebutted by the respondents... that (DAR officials) allowed some people to enter into a private land and till and cultivate the land without any land title," he said.

What the DAR officials did, he said, was give undue advantage to a group of people, which is a violation of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act.

"I decided (on the case) based on a legal issue. I decided to file a case against erring public officials," he said. *With a report from Connie Fernandez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Lawyers' lack assailed

LEGAZPI CITY—Judiciary officials of Masbate have expressed fear that they might lose public support and trust due to delayed disposition of cases because of the lack of trial lawyers in the island-province.

Participants to the "Bench and Bar Dialogue" held here on Friday noted the relatively slow disposal of cases in the regional trial court and the municipal circuit trial courts.

At least five judges were one in noting that the penchant of trial lawyers to absent themselves from hearings derailed the disposal of cases. *Ray Nasol, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern Visayas will experience stormy weather and coastal waters will be moderate to rough. Southern Luzon, the rest of Visayas and Mindanao will experience widespread rains while the rest of the country will be mostly cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	HI 33° Lo 23°
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	HI 26° Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 21°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 23°
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 22°
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 20°
Legazpi	Stormy	HI 31° Lo 24°
Calapan	Widespread Rains	HI 31° Lo 24°
Bacolod	Widespread Rains	HI 31° Lo 24°
Roxas	Widespread Rains	HI 31° Lo 24°
Cebu	Widespread Rains	HI 31° Lo 25°
Tacloban	Stormy	HI 31° Lo 22°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Widespread Rains	HI 31° Lo 24°
Cagayan de Oro	Widespread Rains	HI 30° Lo 23°
Davao	Widespread Rains	HI 32° Lo 25°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/11/07/01

TWIN TREASURES

For a Twin Treat, visit Brunei on your way to Bali, Bangkok or Singapore

Going on a trip to any one of these cities? Hop aboard Royal Brunei Airlines and make a stopover at Brunei for an extended holiday! It's a chance for you to enjoy the culture and sample the flavors of the kingdom on land, and while flying...all at very low rates!

Manila-Brunei-Bali for as low as US \$685*
(2 nights Bali, 3 nights Brunei)

Manila-Brunei-Bangkok for as low as US \$483*
(2 nights Bangkok, 2 nights Brunei)

Manila-Brunei-Singapore for as low as US \$575*
(2 nights Singapore, 2 nights Brunei)

Package Rate includes:
Roundtrip ticket on Royal Brunei Airlines
Roundtrip airport-hotel-airport coach transfers

What are you waiting for? Treat yourselves to our Twin Treasures, now!
*Prices may change without prior notice.

Hari Raya Visit Palace Tour December 19 to 21.
Tour packages available.

For inquiries, call your favorite travel agency or Travelwide Associated Sales, Phils., Inc.
Tel: 897-3309 • FAX: 895-3757 • E-mail us at brunei@twasp.com or visit us at www.brunelair.com

ROYAL BRUNEI

MNLF leader praises terror

BY ALEXANDER M. YOUNG
PDI Mindanao Bureau

SILANGKAN, Sulu—Praising the "martyrs from the Islamic world" for the bombing of the World Trade Center and the Pentagon in the United States, a Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) leader called on his followers to "learn a lesson" from the suicide bombings and follow their example.

The call was made during the second day of the 5th National Bangsamoro Congress at the MNLF's Camp Biyahan here.

Lawyer Ely Pamatong, MNLF liaison officer to the United Nations, turned the Bangsamoro congress into an indignation rally against the US as he applauded "the 19 bold and brave heroes from the world of Islam (who) destroyed forever the pride of the American people, the mightiest nation on earth."

Pamatong, who claimed to have recently arrived from New York to attend the Bangsamoro congress which closed Monday in this hinterland MNLF stronghold, also urged the crowd that include more than 1,000 fully armed members of the MNLF faction loyal to Misuari to follow the example of "the 19 martyrs."

Lesson

"You must learn a lesson from this, because if 19 heroes from the world of Islam can shatter the pride of America, so can you!" he said, amid roars of "Allah-hu Akbar!" from the crowd.

Pamatong, who addressed erstwhile MNLF chair Nur Misuari as "president of the Bangsamoro Republic" assured the crowd that Misuari's faction of the MNLF would soon be accredited by the United Nations as a "permanent observer."

He also claimed that Misuari, and not the MNLF Committee of 15, is recognized by the Organization of Islamic Conference.

"Very soon we'll have a permanent observer status in the United Nations. The Moro National Liberation Front has been well received by the Organization of Islamic Conference headquarters in New York... I also want you to know that there are seven million Muslims in America who are also sympathetic to our cause," Pamatong said.

He said he was lobbying for a petition in the United Nations "to decolonize the Bangsamoro nation."

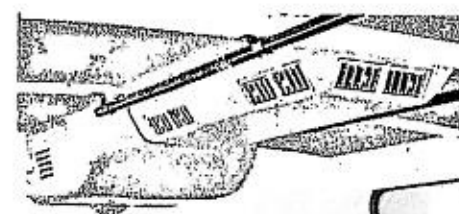
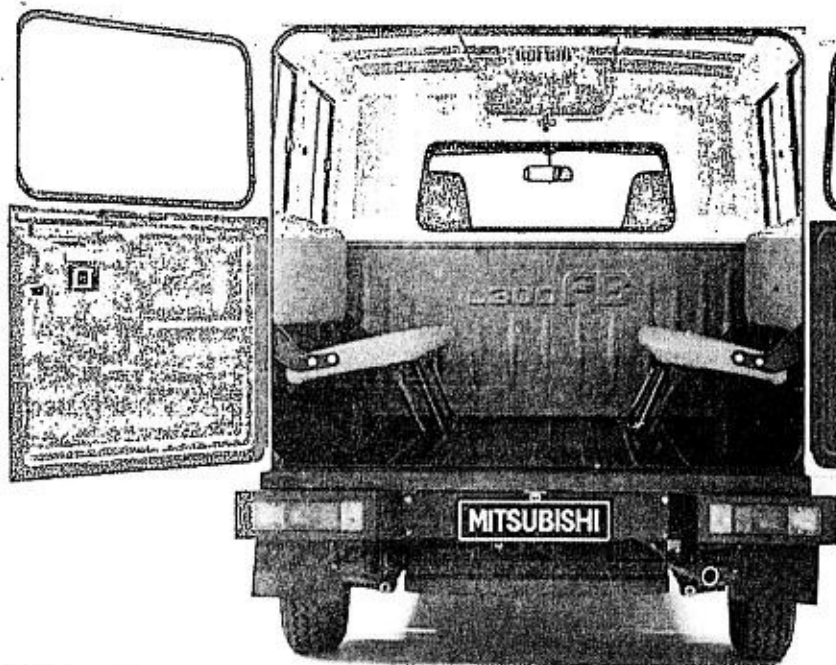
Pamatong boasted that he was arranging means for Misuari to address the UN General Assembly. He said this arrangement faced a setback because of the World Trade Center bombings.

Pamatong added that a permanent observer status for the MNLF is not a far-fetched dream, saying the latest member-nation of the United Nations is Tubalo, with a population of only 10,000. He said the Bangsamoro nation has around seven million forces, outnumbering recognized nations like East Timor.

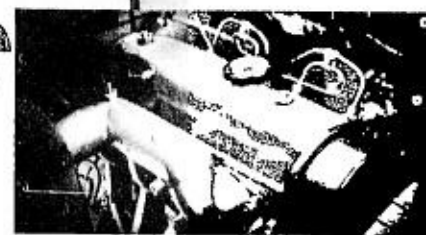
Ang Bagong Mitsubishi L300 FB

Bagong Maaasahan Sa Negosyo

Ang bagong maaasahan sa pagsisimula sa negosyo, ang Mitsubishi L300 FB. Ngayon may bago't pinatibay na rear body, "Rock-kote" coated flooring at mas-malakas na dual aircon, kasama ng kinasanayang malakas at matipid na 4D56 2.5-liter diesel engine, maluwang na cabin, at power-steering para umalalay sa iyong hanapbuhay. Kompiyansa para sa entrepreneur.



New rear aircon system



4D56 2.5-liter diesel engine

New rounded roof corners • New rounded corner post • Gutterless roof • Recessed sliding windows • Re-contoured side panels • Spray-on Rock-kote lining on side and back door • New moulded plastic trims on front panel and back door • New door lock mechanism for rear door

Lalo pang pinagaan
MITSUBISHI
EASYOWN
PLAN

As low as P102,000
Downpayment

As low as P7,145
Monthly

Low Downpayment Plan

L300 FB (with dual A/C) SRP: P570,000

Term	12	18	24	36	48	60
D/P	Net D/P	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
20%	102,000	40,947	28,334	22,594	16,223	13,077
						11,843

Low Monthly Plan

L300 FB (with dual A/C) SRP: P570,000

Term	12	18	24	36	48	60
D/P	Net D/P	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
50%	280,000	24,687	17,083	13,631	9,788	7,890
						7,145

*All plans subject to bank approval

See your nearest Mitsubishi dealer now!



WE'RE EVERYWHERE TO SERVE YOU:

METRO MANILA: CITIMOTORS - Mankil - Tel. 882-0331 to 42 CITIMOTORS - Las Pallas - Tel. 875-1745, 873-6503, 875-1766, 875-1704 DIAMOND MOTOR - Greenhills - Tel. 727-0351 to 75, 721-0338, 724-5353 DIAMOND MOTOR - Maricao Highway - Tel. 846-4801 to 05, 881-4101, 881-4133 DIAMOND MOTOR - Quezon Avenue - Tel. 372-2901 to 15, 414-9440 to 42, 414-9433 to 37 DIAMOND MOTOR - Fairview - Tel. 418-3942, 935-3731 to 32 UNION MOTOR - Alind Santos - Tel. 251-7021 to 38, 253-1972 to 74 UNION MOTOR - Pasco - Tel. 863-8481 to 85, 863-8481 to 87, 503-5079, 563-5686, 563-5688, 562-7203 UNION MOTOR - Kalooken - Tel. 364-20-01 to 60, 364-0147, 364-0148, 364-0422, 364-0762 MITSUBISHI MOTORS - Balintawak - Tel. 330-8901, 330-8903 LUZON: CARWORLD - Pampanga - Tel. (045) 961-2601 to 03, 961-3406, 961-5609, 961-3040, 961-5620 CARWORLD - Tarlac - Tel. (045) 982-5551 to 53, (045) 982-4540 CARWORLD - Marikina - Tel. (044) 711-2005 to 2007, 711-2460 CARWORLD - Malolos - Tel. (044) 701-6320, (044) 791-2405 to 06, Col. No. (0018) 231-7819 CARWORLD - Olongapo - Tel. (047) 224-4307 FREEWAY MOTOR - Davao - Tel. (076) 568-3312, 568-2502 MOTORPLAZA - Bauang, La Union - Tel. (072) 242-0810, 705-5050 MOTORPLAZA - Baguio City - Tel. (074) 443-9700, 300-3571 BPM SALES - Lipa City - Tel. (043) 756-5522 to 25, 756-5194, 756-1018 BPM SALES - San Pablo City - Tel. (049) 562-0680, 562-0691 VISAYAS: AVESCOR MOTORS - Binolod - Tel. (034) 425-2111 to 14, 425-0551 AVESCOR MOTORS - Iloilo City - Tel. (033) 337-4403, 335-0748 MITSUBISHI MOTORS CEBU - Tel. (032) 345-1233, 420-5777 MITSUBISHI MOTORS DUMAGUETE - Tel. (035) 226-1428 MITSUBISHI MOTORS TACLOBAN - Tel. (053) 323-3724, MITSUBISHI MOTORS TAGBILARAN - Tel. (038) 411-5815 MINDANAO: MITSUBISHI MOTORS BUTUAN - Tel. (085) 815-3009 MITSUBISHI MOTORS CAGAYAN DE ORO - Tel. (088) 855-1546 / (0882) 732-508 KARASIA - Davao North - Tel. (082) 222-1111 to 13 KARASIA - Davao South - Tel. (082) 226-1400 to 03 KARASIA - Tagum - Tel. (084) 217-3682 MINDANAO INTEGRATED - Gen. Santos - Tel. (083) 382-0588 ZAMBOANGA MOTORS - Zamboanga City - Tel. (082) 003-0700, 991-2250, 991-2138

Promo ends November 30, 2001

New
L300 FB
Increase your profits.



For DTI-NCR Permit No. 1677, Series of 2001.

INQUIRER Northern Luzon

JUN BANDAYREL, Editor ■ ROLANDO B. FERNANDEZ, Bureau Chief

Battle over garbage rages in Bataan

BY TONETTE OREJAS
Bataan

SINCE 1999, the prospect of Bataan hosting Metro Manila's garbage has loomed, announced no less by former Environment Secretary Antonio Cerilles.

The plan had never been more certain than last October when, on the heels of the oft-repeated "garbage crisis" in Metro Manila, Presidential Management Staff head Victoria Garchitorena announced that President Macapagal-Arroyo had ordered the trash to be shipped out to Bataan.

Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Benjamin Abalos spoke with no ambiguity, pointing out that the plan was to Mariveles town or to the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant in Morong town as the next dumpsite.

It is Bagac town, specifically in remote, coastal Barangay Quinawan. In no time, the village has become a hostile frontier for those taking or rejecting Metro Manila's garbage.

WHY here?" Julita Bancua, 65, asked, her soft voice drowned out by the strong splashes of the waves on the coastline of white sand.

Behind her, dormant Mt. Mariveles towered, shading her village of 166 families, many of whom gathered on Saturday noon to ask the same question as Bancua's and raise concern for their health.

The answer, according to her, lies in who owns the tract of land at Barangay Quinawan.

She said the Waste Management Industries Inc. (WMII) was planning to build the Bataan ecological waste management complex in her village because Rolly Roxas, the landowner, was selling 300 hectares of his property to the company.

Barangay Captain Lorenzo Laguna said the WMII would build a waste recycling plant in the land to produce organic fertilizer. WMII said the few non-recyclable materials would be stored in a landfill, which would not be the major facility.

Showing a 1963 survey map, he said Roxas obtained at least 1.116 million square meters from one Erlinda Basilio. Gov. Leonardo Roman said it was probable that Roxas had been trying to sell his land to the WMII.

Roman pointed this out to clear reports that his brother Victor also owns vast tracts of land in Quinawan and that Victor is not a business partner of Roxas.

Whatever ties the Romans had with the Roxases ended when the late Rep. Pablo Roman, a former business associate of the elder Roxas, died, he said.

Bancua said she was certain that Roxas wants the land in Sitio



SEASIDE Barangay Quinawan, above and map of Bagac, left.

same would be done in his village.

WMII's waste recycling project might finally put an end to the poverty long gripping the settlers, Laguna said.

The company, according to him, promised to build a road connecting Quinawan to Bagac and nearby Mariveles, and to provide permanent jobs to the residents.

"Kung hindi magagawa ang daan, hindi na kami uunlad dito (If the road is not constructed, we would never progress here)," Laguna explained. Rationalizing further the need for the project, he cited the nuclear plant that, although massively opposed, gave nearby Morong town the road it badly needed.

He said residents have not fully cultivated their farms because they have no big boats to carry their produce to the town center.

The daily catch does not suffice for meals and the 36 families who own motorboats rarely earn P3,000 monthly. On rainy months when travel by boat was not possible, the residents have to walk for seven hours to buy rice and medicines in Bagac.

Rather than rely on the government for the road and their jobs, Laguna said they might as well expect it from the WMII.

Laguna, however, said these benefits are still uncertain because village officials and the MWII have not signed any agreement.

Bancua said many residents like her prefer to live on what they can get most from the land and the sea so

long as they are healthy.

Doubts

Typical of environmentally critical projects in the country, the one in Quinawan was not done with utmost transparency, according to Msgr. Edilfredo Cruz, Bagac parish priest. Laguna said WMII representatives, who called themselves environmentalists, began consultations last February.

Bancua said Norman Mosquida, one of the few villagers who finished college, was the one who pressed Laguna to involve the residents in any or all meetings about the garbage plan.

Doubts also surround pro-WMII resolutions. Divinaflor said the barangay resolution emanated from the municipal government and was approved without the village council assembling to deliberate on it.

Joe Galvez, spokesperson of the Bagac-based Mamamayan Laban sa Basura, said the municipal resolution was approved without public hearings.

The municipal council has yet to act on a petition seeking to nullify the resolution.

Galvez said the recycling plant was a "ploy" to make Bataan residents and officials accept the landfill. Cruz wanted the WMII to be "more transparent and consultative." For instance, the firm's brochures did not indicate the area of the plant and the volume of garbage it would recycle from Metro Manila and Bataan's 12 towns.

In a Sept. 28 meeting, held for an environmental impact assessment, the WMII "only presented its side" and

"did not invite Quinawan residents," he said. According to him, health and resources for livelihood were not the only issues at stake. He said the watersheds at Anyasan are crucial to the ecological balance of Bagac, if not the entire Bataan.

Quinawan is also historically significant. Here, the fiercest of World War II battles were fought between Filipino and American soldiers, on the one hand, and Japanese troops, on the other hand.

Old folk recalled that the coast of Anyasan Point turned red when, at the outbreak of the war, Americans and Filipinos trained their canyons and guns on some 30,000 Japanese soldiers sent to capture Manila via Bataan. Two Japanese Buddhist shrines were in the village to recall that event.

The International Institute for Aerospace Survey and Earth Sciences proposed an eco-tourism plan for Bagac.

Local need

The facility also answers Bataan's own garbage problem, Roman said. Open dumpsites near rivers are all that the 12 towns have.

Bataan, hosts to the Bataan Export Zone and four industrial enclaves, was like a building without a "pozo negro (sewer)," he said.

Roman said the WMII project was not a joint venture with the provincial government. "It's like any other investors in Bataan. It's solely theirs," he said.

What the firm designed was so big that the province's 500 tons of garbage daily could not solely fill. To make the project financially viable, Roman said the firm plans to accommodate 15 percent of Metro Manila's trash. This, according to him, would spare the province from paying fee to the WMII.

Mariveles residents bucked the project before it started. Negotiations by MWII with the MMDA bogged down, Roman said. Nothing happened in the last two years until Bagac was considered.

Roman said the President was misinformed about the waste facility project. He said MMDA officials, pressed by the President to come up with solutions, conveniently pointed to Bataan.

But he said the provincial government was "willing to host part of Metro Manila's garbage."

Hitting the Nimby (not-in-my-backyard) syndrome among local politicians, he said: "This is a political decision. We need to share the benefits of being near Metro Manila and also share with its burdens. We only have one bay."

He set three conditions. These are people's acceptance, meeting international standards, and sustainability in terms of long-term funding.

Asked when the province was expected to start hosting Metro Manila's garbage, he said: "One year." But that time frame, he said, was dependent on the three conditions.

Great Ilocano fictionist forgotten in hometown

BY DESIREE CALUZA

La Union

Her nails were long but they were not painted. She was fragrant like a morning when papayas are in bloom. And a small dimple appeared momentarily high up on her right cheek...

—Excerpts from "How My Brother Leon Brought Home a Wife"

IT was one hot day in my father's hometown in Barangay Nagrebcan in Bauang, La Union. Sunlight passes through the thick foliage of acacia lining the village as my two aunts and my brother walk toward the house where the late Manuel Arguilla, said to be among the best fictionists the Ilocandia has ever produced, grew up.

Arguilla became famous for writing short stories set in his town and his beloved Nagrebcan in the 1930s and 1940s.

Our visit was to know the fictionist more, intimately through his village and unfold the story behind Manong Noel, Baldo, Labang the carabao and other characters in Arguilla's "How My Brother Leon Brought Home a Wife."

This story revolved around the life of Baldo, a farmer in Nagrebcan, who followed orders from his father to test the character of his brother Noel's fiancée. It was Baldo who guided the couple through Nagrebcan in a *careta* pulled by "Labang," the family's stubborn carabao.

In the story, Noel is affectionately called "Leon" by his fiancée Maria. Baldo narrated how Maria, a city lass, had to go through an ordeal when he made her ride on the *careta* as it passed through the rugged and bushy Waig Road leading

to the Katayaghan Hills in Nagrebcan. Maria had to go through the test as deemed by their father to determine if she, an urbanite, deserved to be Noel's wife.

In the end, the city lass earned the nod of her fiancée's father.

"But how many of us in this town remember this story? How many of us know about Manuel?" asked 91-year-old Aurora Arguilla-Sonza, Arguilla's sister.

The question disturbed me. But I was quick to say that I read the story in school. I told her that was my memory of her brother and his short stories.

Unrecognized

Sonza or Lola Auring is Arguilla's eldest and the only living sibling. Unlike others her age, she has a sharp memory.

She said her best memories are reserved about her brother Manuel and the good old Nagrebcan.

Lola Auring would point to me where Katayaghan Hills and Waig Road

matayan kami dito kung paalisin kami at kung itutuloy ang proyekto (There will be killings here if they evict us and continue with the project)."

Her mother Ludivina, 72, is unfazed. "We may have no titles but we have lived here for 40 years. That does not take away from us the right to decide whether we want the garbage project or not," she said.

Bancua said land was at the core of their battle against garbage.

Seeing hope

The barangay council, in March this year, approved a resolution supporting the WMII project. Laguna said he was convinced to support it after Roman and former Mayor Melquides Teopengco showed him photographs of how waste was managed in Hong Kong. He was told the



AURORA Arguilla-Sonza, sister of the late fictionist Manuel Arguilla, shows off the marker honoring her brother installed in their ancestral house in Barangay Nagrebcan in Bauang, La Union.

that Arguilla immortalized in his story are located.

She said Arguilla's "How My Brother Leon..." was based on the story of their family, their relatives and neighbors in Nagrebcan.

Unfortunately, no one remembers Arguilla or his stories in this generation. A municipal employee said only a few high school and college students recognize who Arguilla was and his contributions to Philippine literature.

"It is sad that our school libraries and the public libraries in La Union do not even have a copy of Arguilla's book. If that is the case, how can we know a part of our roots, our local life?" the employee said.

He lamented that even local schools do not discuss Arguilla's works in literature and communication subjects.

Lola Auring was quick to point out that a lot of changes have taken place in Nagrebcan. The huts made of cogon and bamboo have been replaced with concrete houses; the rice and tobacco fields are gone, and in their places are more houses. Waig Road has been cemented.

"That was the 1940s. What is the year now?" Lola Auring asked.

Native son

The town honored Arguilla in 1983 when the municipal government erected a historical marker at the Arguillas' two-story ancestral house in Nagrebcan.

Arguilla was born on June 17, 1911 and was the youngest of four siblings. His father was a tobacco farmer, his mother a housewife.

During high school, Arguilla became popular in his village because of his writing prowess. He would contribute his short stories to the Philippines

Free Press and Tribune.

Arguilla excelled as a poet and a fictionist. He obtained a degree of Bachelor of Science in Education in 1933 from the University of the Philippines. He became a teacher at the University of Manila in 1937 and worked with the Bureau of Public Welfare.

He was the editor of "Literature Under the Commonwealth" (1940) and "Literary Apprentice" (1932-1933).

His short stories, including "How My Brother Leon..." were published in the collection of American Short Stories in 1936.

His collection of short stories won the Commonwealth Literary Award in 1940, and has gone through several printings. His works were also published in the series of manuscripts on Philippine tales and fables.

Arguilla's stories used local color and talked about rural life and protest during the Japanese occupation. His writing earned appreciation from local and international critics.

Arguilla, who was involved in the underground movement during the Japanese Occupation, also wrote stories that reflected his experience as a guerrilla fighter and a propagandist during World War II.

He married Lydia Villanueva, an artist, writer and co-founder and art administrator of the Philippine Art Gallery.

Arguilla was among the 100 Filipino Centennial Heroes cited by the Cultural Center of the Philippines' Centennial Honors for the Arts on Feb. 2, 1999. His wife Lydia was

GREAT ILOCANO/p.17

Feeding the salad throng

BY FRANK CIMATU
AND GOBLETH MOULIC
Baguio City

CHEF Abelardo Quiambao became Baguio's toast for tossing what may be the biggest tossed salad in the country on Sept. 16.

At least 5,000 people, some coming from as far as Metro Manila, queued outside the Baguio Convention Center to be part of a culinary history.

"We beat the Utah record four times," said Jeannine Chan, head of the Baguio Association of Hotels and Inns (Bahali), the event organizer.

Chan was referring to the Guinness Book of World Records of Salt Lake City for the biggest Caesar salad set last year where 1,000 people were fed.

Strict protocol of the Guinness prevented Baguio from making it to the records book. But all is not lost.

"We will do it again next year," 69-year-old Quiambao said.

No sweat

For the tossed salad served at the Baguio Convention Center, Quiambao and his crew of 50 hardly had a sweat.

At about 6 a.m. of Sept. 16, Quiambao had them washing, cutting, and tearing a ton of lettuce, cucumber, tomatoes, green and red bell peppers and carrots. The Thousand Island dressing was provided by corporate sponsors.

Great Ilocano . . .

(From page)

also among the CCP awardees.

Although he wrote in English, critics said Arguilla infused the language with an "Ilocano color and sensibility."

Lola Auring said Arguilla's propaganda pieces had drawn the ire of Japanese officials who were wary of several uprisings.

Arguilla was editor in chief of the newsletter of the Department of Social Welfare when he was arrested by Japanese soldiers.

"I do not know how he was executed. He was in his office in M.H. Del Pilar Building in Escolta when he was arrested by Japanese soldiers. My mother had asked him to come in

At 8 a.m., they were prepared to feed the throng that had queued outside despite the rain. When the feeding officially ended at 3 p.m., they had fed 4,861 and the queue had not waned.

"We were left with only 30 kilos of salad," Quiambao said.

The organizers, which also included the city government and the Department of Tourism, were expecting 3,000 salad eaters at most.

Now Baguio is taking all comers.

"We can even feed 5,000 for the biggest Caesar salad ever. It's not really that hard and expensive," Quiambao said while whipping the dressing for the Voyager Restaurant's Caesar salad at the El Cielito Inn here.

"What we need, though, are 5,000 eggs," he added.

Scott Blackerby, the chef who tossed the Caesar salad in Utah, however, did not use egg because the salad was for Utah Five-a-Day Association, a diet club.

Utah used 12 cases of Romaine lettuce, 14 gallons of Caesar salad dressing, 20 pounds of Parmesan cheese, five pounds of garlic, 40 loaves of croissants and six tins of anchovies.

Blackerby also used Romaine lettuce, which is rare here. Baguio will have to subsist on Benguet lettuce, of course.

Quiambao, who has been a chef for more than 35 years, was not one to skimp on ingredients.

"We also need lots of olive oil. No other oil will do," he said.

At 45 grams per salad serving, that

Nagrebcan, but he refused because he was afraid that the Japanese might harm us also," said Lola Auring.

Arguilla and 29 other Filipino propagandists were said to be executed by Japanese soldiers after they were detained in Fort Santiago.

Lola Auring now lives alone in their ancestral house. She said her memories of Arguilla are kept in a wooden chest—photographs, awards and collections of articles written about him.

She is hoping that their ancestral house, which keeps Arguilla's memorabilia, will become a historical site to remind Ilocanos that once, an Ilocano writer had lived there and wrote how beautiful life was in the barrio and demonstrated love for one's country.

will amount to 225 kilos for 5,000 people.

Caesar salad in Baguio is traditionally served in large wooden bowls so the Baguio carvers would have to make the biggest wooden salad bowl.

Experience, practice

Quiambao learned to make his first Caesar salad while still a waiter at Alba Cocina Español in Manila in 1964.

He was only a high school graduate who learned the art of cooking from 39 years of experience and practice.

"I trained myself," he said.

His training started in 1964 not as a cook, but as a waiter in a restaurant in his native Pampanga. To support his family, he did his job well until he was later promoted to captain waiter.

Unknown to his co-workers, Quiambao had been meticulously observing how their cook cut the vegetables, prepared the ingredients and cooked them

with the right amount of fire.

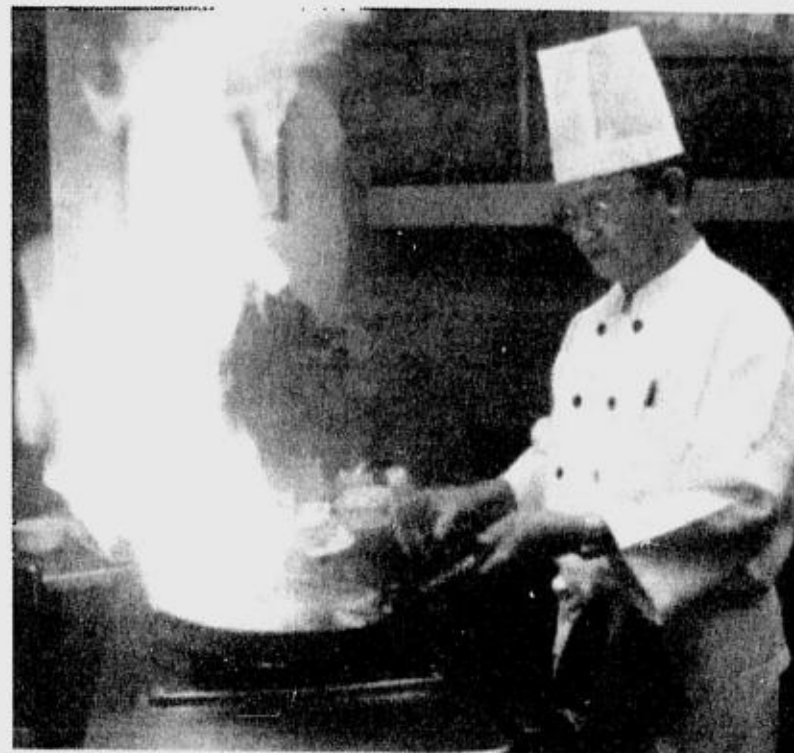
When he had no customers to attend to, he peppered the cook with several questions about foreign-sounding dishes and memorized by heart the nitty-gritty of cooking.

Before he knew it, he was cooking European, Asian and Filipino cuisine by himself.

His culinary skill was not left unnoticed by then Pampanga Gov. Juanita Nepomuceno who hired him to man the family's own restaurant at Oasis Hotel in Clark in 1967.

From Pampanga, Quiambao became chef at Hyatt Terraces in Baguio, Cebu Plaza and Coral Hotel in Cebu and at the Baguio Country Club.

Quiambao met important clients who flew him to Cebu where he fed former President Fidel Ramos, among other key government officials, with sumptuous seafood delicacies during a conference.



CHEF Abelardo Quiambao.

TOTS SOBERANO

GET MORE THAN YOU ASK FOR!

- **VERSATILITY** - Designed to cook multiple products including PIZZA, SEAFOODS, BAGELS AND MORE. Conveyor belt direction is field reversible.
- **YOU SERVE HOT & FAST** - Bake faster at a lower oven temperature. Patented "Jet Sweep" hot air impingement penetrates the product faster and better.
- **YOU SAVE MONEY** - EMS (Energy Management System) reduces gas consumption and increases cooking efficiency.
- **CONSISTENCY** - Microprocessor-controlled bake time and temperature.
- **DURABILITY** - Stainless steel front, sides, top and interior.
- **MAINTENANCE FRIENDLY** - Easy to clean, easily serviced.
- **LESS SPACE** - Stackable up to three units high.
- **DEPENDABILITY** - One year parts and labor warranty.

VARIOUS KITCHEN EQUIPMENT ON SALE! VISIT US AT LAS PINAS WAREHOUSE

MIDDLEBY WORLDWIDE PHILIPPINES, INC.

Office Address:

113 Technology Ave., Laguna Technopark, Biñan, Laguna, Philippines 4024
Tel. No. (632) 520-8170 • Fax No. (632) 520-8191

Warehouse Address:

Warehouse #3, Las Piñas Commercial Complex, #30 Real St., Talon, Las Piñas City
Tel. No. (632) 871-5162-65 • 871-3861 • Fax No. (632) 871-5164

Middleby® Marshall
CONVEYOR OVEN

USED BY ALL U.S. PIZZA CHAINS!

EURO GRILL
ROTISSERIE • BAKERY OVENS

Amana
MICROWAVE OVEN

Ice-O-Matic
ICE MAKER

Southbend
CONVECTION OVEN • RANGES

Select
GRIDDLES • FRYERS

Toastmaster
CONVEYOR TOASTERS

What more could you ask for?

KIA gives you these vehicle values with lowest down to own!



Photo may vary from actual unit.

SRP ₱620,000

PREGIO ENTERPRISE

₱99,500 downpayment

• 12-passenger capacity • Front/rear all-coil spring suspension

20% down payment financing also available for other KIA models. Subject to credit approval from PRIMUS Finance & Leasing, Inc. WHAT MORE COULD YOU ASK FOR?

Promo period: October 16 to November 30, 2001 Available at Metro Manila and Luzon dealers only.

KC2700 CARRYALL
21-passenger Panoramic
₱99,900 downpayment
SRP ₱500,000 (w/out aircon)

PRIDE Spree
with power steering and central locking
₱69,000 downpayment
SRP ₱345,000

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1627, Series of 2001

Ask for the KIA of your choice at these authorized dealers:

METRO MANILA

KIA MOTOR SALES CORP.
2613 Aurora Blvd., Pasay City Tel. 891-6337 to 39
+834-1271 to 77-891-6334

MANILA MULTI AUTOCENTER, INC.
1170-80 Pres. Quinsua Ave., Paco, Manila
Tel. 563-0701 to 10-563-0712

PRINCE MOTOR CORP.
43 Commonwealth Avenue, Q. C. Tel. 951-2201
to 16-463-9318 to 20

SIGNET BAINTAWAK

1240 EDSA, Bantay, Q. C.
Tel. 362-5091 to 92-361-8356-361-0544

SIGNET MANDALUYONG

79 EDSA Mandaluyong M. M. Tel. 531-4631 to 33
+531-4424-531-1949 Almonte Branch: (in front
of S.M. South) Tel. 806-1390-801-1656-806-2230
+806-2235-801-1658-802-1024-806-2229

WHEELS, INC.

Wheels, Inc., 222 E. Rodriguez St. Ave., Q. C. (near
St. Luke's Hospital) Tel. 721-8456-721-8455-721-8448
+411-3456. Wheels, Inc., 622 Quezon Ave., Q. C.
Tel. 712-2923-712-2926-712-2927

LUZON

AMIANAN AUTOCENTER, INC.

Main: National Highway, Sevilla, City of San Fernando,
La Union 2500 Tel. (075) 700-8881/888-2607

Baguio Branch: 110 Magpayay Ave., Baguio City 2600
Tel. (074) 300-8861/444-3547 Laog Branch: Brgy. 16
National Highway, Payas San Nicolas, Ilocos Norte 2901
Tel. (077) 761-6581 to 82

TRADERS AUTOCENTER, INC.

Gapan-Quingapa Road, San Fernando, Pampanga
Tel. (045) 961-1485 • (045) 961-3926-961-1486 Cal No.
(0912) 330-3231 Talaog Branch: McArthur Highway,
San Rafael, Tarlac, Tarlac Tel. (045) 982-2423

METRO-DAGUPAN AUTOCENTER, INC.

McArthur Highway, San Miguel, Calasiao,
Pangasinan Tel. (076) 522-8805 to 06

BATANGAS-LAGUNA AUTOCENTER, INC.

Main: Pres. Laurel Highway Crossing
Sta. Tomas Batangas Tel. (043) 778-4214 to 17

VISAYAS & MINDANAO

CEBU AUTOCENTER, INC.

417 A. Corbett Ave., Mandaue City Tel. (032) 344-3815
+ (032) 344-3816 • (032) 346-3819 • (032) 346-0265

Boacod Branch: 55 Asonola St., Singang, Boacod City
Tel. (034) 434-7207 • (034) 435-0977

GGC ORMOG AUTOCENTER, INC.

Ula Ave., Cagayan, Ormoc City Tel. (053) 265-3466
Taaluban Branch: 145-C Emilio Veterans St., Tacloban
City Tel. (053) 321-2898

KIA MOTORS (METRO ILOILO)

Brgy. Tagbac (Beside Mahoplat), Jaro, Iloilo City
Tel. (033) 329-2886 • (033) 329-2222 • (033) 329-4630
Fax (033) 329-5257

RS AUTOSPHERE CORP.

Km. 7 J. P. Laurel Ave., Lanang, Davao City Tel. (082) 2273-736
+ (082) 2271-805 • (082) 234-0057 • (082) 244-0058 • (082) 234-2433

STERLING MOTOR CORP.

Cugman, Cagayan de Oro City
Tel. (088) 855-5500, (088) 855-6100, (088) 7333207

WESTERN MINDANAO AUTOMOTIVE CORP.

(also known as CHEVY CENTER) National Highway, Sta. Isabel,
Dipolog City Tel. (065) 212-6897 Fax (065) 212-2865

Feuding justices ordered to shut up

(From page A1)

ing Badoy and Garchitorena to further issue statements might erode each other's credibility in handling the cases against Estrada.

"The judiciary is the last bulwark of our democracy. I believe that they should (stop the word war) to preserve the credibility of the judiciary," Perez said.

Last volley

Before the gag order was issued, Badoy managed to fire the last volley. He urged Garchitorena to resign.

"Sir, if you have any little sense of decency and honor, I can see no other alternative but for you to resign before the end of the day," Badoy said in a message to Garchitorena over radio dzMM.

"I will lead and take the witness stand against you, Sir, even today," Badoy said, voice cracking with emotion.

Badoy said he was willing to testify before the Supreme Court, which has administrative control over the Sandiganbayan, to have

Garchitorena dismissed.

Garchitorena received the Supreme Court order sent by fax at about 11:51 a.m. in Davao City while he was presiding over a hearing of the Sandiganbayan's first division.

But Garchitorena refused to be silenced. He said he would still issue statements to "defend himself" as his credibility was being affected by the controversy.

He told reporters that he had to answer their queries.

Three hours after Garchitorena received the Supreme Court order, Badoy announced that he received his copy.

With the order, Badoy declined to take any questions from reporters.

Liar, liar

Before that, Badoy accused Garchitorena on national radio of "deliberately lying" when he wrote to the Supreme Court last month criticizing Badoy's work ethic.

"All these charges are outlandish and fantastic," Badoy said early morning.

"(It is) unbelievable that you (Garchitorena) are capable of doing that despite your reputation for accuracy of facts and precision," Badoy said. "Sir, it would have been very easy for you to verify."

Badoy said Garchitorena lied in his Oct. 11 letter to the Supreme Court wherein the anti-graft court's presiding justice said that he was "always absent" and that there was "hardly any activity" in Badoy's chamber.

Badoy had written the Supreme Court asking for additional staff, including a court stenographer and two lawyers, because of the heavy workload in Estrada's trial.

Asked by the high tribunal to comment on the request, Garchitorena wrote a letter detailing the alleged complaints of Badoy's fellow justices and staffers. Garchitorena alleged Badoy often arrived late for hearings and had others do his paper work, causing graft cases to pile up.

On his alleged absenteeism, Badoy said Garchitorena could have easily checked with the security

guards monitoring the arrival and departure of justices.

"As a matter of fact, let me say outright now that if we compare our number of absences since I assumed the chairmanship of the third division, (last) April, I am almost sure that you have more absences than I have, Sir," Badoy said.

To justify his need for more personnel, Badoy claimed that he "has the heaviest load" among the 15 Sandiganbayan justices because the Estrada case landed on his lap. "I have a horrendously inadequate staff," he said.

Badoy said the three Estrada cases raffled off to his division, namely plunder, illegal use of alias, and the second perjury case, were signs that he had been given a "divine task."

The fourth case, handled by the first division chaired by Garchitorena, also charges Estrada with perjury.

Divine task

"It is very clear that this is a divine task given to me, which is so difficult. Whichever way you go

you are being pilloried by all sides. So I just take it as penance for all my sins and hopefully before I go the Lord would have forgiven me for all my sins, Sir," said Badoy.

Estrada's trial on corruption charges has been mired in legal wrangling since it began last month.

Lawyers of the deposed President have asked Badoy to withdraw from the cases because of alleged anti-Estrada bias.

But a broad coalition of anti-Estrada groups, known as the Plunder Watch, has accused Garchitorena of alleged biased toward Estrada, who theoretically faces the death penalty if convicted.

Garchitorena last month barred the presentation of state's evidence against Estrada on the lesser charge of perjury, dealing a major blow to the government's case.

Badoy said Garchitorena lied again when he claimed that he would not have the first crack (at the Estrada plunder trial) if the chair of the third division resigned as the case would be raffled off.

"He knows that that is not so. He deliberately lied by saying, 'No, it is by raffle,'" Badoy said. "Seniority among chairmen" decides who gets the cases handled by a chair of a division, who resigned, according to Badoy.

"I accuse the presiding justice of deliberately lying, and when a justice lies then he has no business staying one minute in the court whose daily business is concerned with the truth and nothing but the truth," Badoy said.

The Supreme Court would have "no other alternative," he said, "except to dismiss you outright because here the witnesses are the 14 justices and I will lead (them) and take the

witness stand against you, Sir, even today."

MNLF for Badoy

In Cotabato City, the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) Council of 15 has expressed support for Badoy, a native of Cotabato City.

"We are fully supportive of Justice Badoy in his crusade for a graft-free government," said Cotabato City Mayor Muslimin Sema, a member of the MNLF council.

"Badoy's credibility has never been tainted with doubts even when he was just an ordinary government servant here," said Sema, who also chairs the Southern Philippines Council for Peace and Development.

Sema said that "those who are questioning Badoy's credibility, incompetence should have a change of heart and mind."

In the House of Representatives, Rep. Raul M. Gonzalez filed a resolution calling for an investigation of Badoy's claim that Garchitorena had pressured him to resign as chair of the third division.

At 1 p.m. today, the third division is scheduled to resume the Estrada plunder trial, with the continuing direct examination of prosecution witness Willie Ng Ocier, vice president of Belle Corp.

As the first prosecution witness, Ocier is expected to testify on how Estrada pocketed P189.7 million in commissions from the purchase of Belle Corp. shares using funds from the Social Security System and the Government Service Insurance System. **With reports from Norman Bordonara in Manila; Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau; and AFP**

Democracy, free media blamed for RP's woes

(From page A1)

kept their politics and the media in check, Concepcion told a press conference held at the Concepcion building in Makati.

He pointed out that the Nov. 26 summit was a make-or-break meeting for the country's leaders to solve the gravest crisis yet to hit the country.

He said the summit was an ideal time for soul-searching to look back into the country's history and see why the Philippine economy had lagged behind its neighbors.

"This is the best time to reflect whether the free-wheeling democracy and press are a deterrent to economic growth, he said."

"We have achieved very little since the end of World War II because we engage in too much politics and too little good government. This is the reason why we have very poor infrastructure," Concepcion said.

Culture of corruption

According to Concepcion, a political system that requires billions of pesos for one to become a president engenders a culture of corruption and cronyism that has become endemic on all administrations for the last 50 years.

He said the current concerns on inflation, interest rates and currency fluctuations were trivial compared to the country's deep-seated problems of graft and corruption, cronyism and the people's apathy.

"The main agenda in the summit should not be how much the economy would grow or how the peso would perform next year. It should be on what has been ailing the economy for the last 50 years," Concepcion said.

The government, together with

Congress, labor and business leaders and non-government organizations (NGO), plans to draw up a two-year action plan in the summit aimed at shielding the country from the harsh impact of a global economic slowdown.

Layoffs

More than 2,052 companies here have closed shop or laid off workers amid a difficult environment in the nine months to September.

The figures are 13.9 percent more than the 1,766 affected companies last year, Labor Secretary Patricia Santo Tomas said.

The figures also suggest that "we have not really felt the effects of the Sept. 11 attacks in the New York World Trade Center," Santo Tomas added during a TV interview.

"When we see the October figures, this might change because by October I'm sure the effects of Sept. 11 would be seen already."

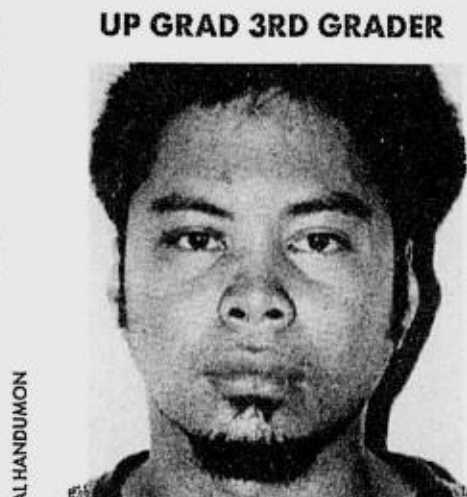
After the terror attacks the government said it was dropping the high end of its 3.3-3.8 percent gross domestic product growth this year.

Philippine exports for the nine months to September fell 14.1 percent from a year earlier to \$23.934 billion.

The economy expanded by 3.9 percent last year.

The summit is expected to identify which areas are the most vulnerable to the heightened global uncertainty after the Sept. 11 attacks as well as areas identified in the President's State of the Nation Address and the Medium-Term Philippine Development Program that have been slow in implementation.

The summit plans to push measures that are "doable" up to 2003 as well as to obtain the commitments by the private sector and civil society.



UP GRAD 3RD GRADER

The wrath of Erlinda Lankay, aunt of the suspected Zamboanga City bomber, Marvin Geonzon, falls squarely on the military for arresting her nephew whom she describes as a "psychotic" who only finished third-grade. She showed his medical and school records to prove it. So, how can he assemble a bomb like he said he did? She lashed out at the military. Geonzon had also claimed that he was a biochemist student at the University of the Philippines and was a member of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network. The military's response: It's for the courts to decide. But the NBI admitted it still had no evidence against Geonzon.

Macapagal back from Asean summit

(From page A1)

matic corps.

In her speech, Ms Macapagal hailed the approval of the Asean-China free trade area, noting that the Philippines was in a position to "take advantage" of the agreement by selling palm oil, coconut and other tropical food products.

"I call on our agribusiness industry to seize the opportunity to sell these tropical products to China because China is a temperate country and it does not really produce everything," she said.

Ms Macapagal said fighting terrorism "was the order of the day" during the summit proper and in Asean's subsequent talks with China, Japan and South Korea.

She said she had offered to host simulation exercises to counter terrorist threats. Five countries—the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and Singapore—have agreed to participate in the exercises.

In a talk with reporters in Brunei on Monday night, the President explained why she did not support Malaysia and Indonesia in their call for a stop to the US bombing in Afghanistan, particularly during the Ramadan.

"Well, I understand the US po-

sition to continue its attacks because we are not also stopping our attacks on the Abu Sayyaf during the Ramadan," she said. The Muslim holy month starts on Nov. 17 and ends on Dec. 16.

Ms Macapagal and other Asean leaders argued that Washington was left with little option after the Sept. 11 terror attacks, saying these not only dealt a blow to the United States but the global economy as well.

"But I also understand the position of Malaysia and Indonesia because they have a very big Muslim population," she said.

Ms Macapagal pointed out that Asean was a "very diverse" grouping.

"That's why we're very sensitive to one another's unique situation... that's why our statements provide the least common denominator," she said.

The views of Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri and Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad were shut out from the Asean anti-terrorism declaration.

Brunei, the third Muslim nation in Asean, handled the issue delicately. Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah chaired the Asean Standing Committee, the policy-making arm of

the grouping.

In what was seen as a face-saving gesture to Malaysia and Indonesia, Bolkiah inserted their views—although subtly—in his closing statement.

He said the Asean leaders "expressed their concern for the welfare of innocent people as a result of the military action on Afghanistan."

The statement was seen as significant even though it fell short of calling for a halt to the US bombing campaign.

Economic front

But the political tensions among the Asean leaders did not boil over to the economic front where they reached an agreement on key issues vital to haul back the region from its economic downturn in four years.

"Not at all, I was myself surprised," Thai Foreign Minister Surakiart Sathirathai said when asked whether the terrorism issue had hijacked Asean's agenda.

He said during the summit proper on Monday, the leaders "spent about 5 percent of their time, in my view, talking about terrorism and 95 percent of their time on new challenges facing Asean."

"Of course there was reference to 911 (Sept. 11 attacks) but they

also talked about intra-Asean cooperation, linkages of small and medium scale industries and how to create joint initiative for Asean integration," Surakiart said.

The Asean leaders also asked their ministers to come up with more concrete plans in flagship projects from pan-Asean open skies to regional highway networks, power grids and gas pipelines.

But the most important initiative that stole the thunder at the Asean summit was the leaders' agreement to a Chinese plan for a free trade area covering Southeast Asia and the world's most populous nation.

Vietnam and Malaysia initially were wary of the idea. Kuala Lumpur was concerned that cheaper Chinese goods might flood the Southeast Asian market.

But the two countries relented, keeping the Asean spirit of consensus alive.

"We wish to signal that we are more determined than ever to accelerate the liberalization of trade in East Asia," Bolkiah said.

"Asean cannot simply sit back and wait for our traditional export markets to recover from the current global economic downturn. **Reports from Dona Z. Pazzibugan, Norman Bordonara, AP and AFP**

'Least corrupt administration'

(From page A1)

lesson in Journalism 101.

In his haste, however, Tiglao forgot one of the most basic journalistic principles: identifying one's source.

By overemphasizing coup rumors and scandals, he said, news organizations were missing the "big story"—which he defined as the emergence of the Macapagal administration as the least corrupt government in Asia, with prosperous Singapore coming in second.

He failed to say, however, where he got his information, who conducted the presumably international survey, or when the results were released.

"I will make a point. In your day-to-day reporting, I think you are starting to miss the big story. In two months' time, this government will be one year old. And in 10 months' time, if you look back, this govern-

ment has managed to fend off all threats to its system," Tiglao said.

"I can say without batting an eyelash that this government is emerging as one of the strongest, most efficient and most corruptless administrations."

A check with the most recent corruption perception surveys conducted by the likely sources—Transparency International and Political and Economic Risk Consultancy—showed that the country continued to lag behind in this particular measure.

Transparency's 91-country Corruption Perceptions Index, released on June 27, pegged the Philippines at No. 65, on the same level as Guatemala, Senegal and Zimbabwe. Singapore ranked fourth, with Iceland.

PERC's corruption survey in Asia review, released in March, ranked the Philippines ninth out of

12 Asian countries. Singapore placed first.

Trust ratings

The findings of the most recent Pulse Asia survey were also released during Romulo's press briefing. Judging by the results, the people who are most popular are also the least trusted.

Among 15 professions included in the poll, actors and politicians emerged as least trusted by Filipinos, while teachers and doctors enjoyed the highest trust ratings.

The survey was conducted between Sept. 22 and Oct. 4.

Both Romulo and Tiglao, who were raised by mothers who were teachers, welcomed the survey results. "My mother was a teacher and later a school principal," Romulo remarked with fondness.

On a scale of 1 to 10, teachers got a trust rating of 8.42, followed

closely by doctors with 8.3. Pollsters from such firms as Pulse Asia came in third at 7.8, and church people came next with a rating of 7.68.

Members of the media, whom government officials like Tiglao had castigated in recent days for accentuating the negative, came in a strong fifth, with a trust rating of 7.62. On the margins of the survey document, Tiglao wrote a note for the Malacañang Press Corps: "Congrats. So live up to the trust."

Lawyers came next with 6.99, followed by the youth, with 6.91; judges, 6.84; soldiers or members of the military, 6.73; businessmen, 6.3; and policemen, 5.84.

Politicians (5.69) and actors and actresses (5.26) occupied the bottom 12th and 13th places, respectively.

Romulo's insights

At the conference, Tiglao asked Romulo to give his insights on "the

big thing that this administration has been able to achieve in such a short period of time."

Taking the cue, Romulo said that, for one thing, the government was keeping track of the pledges made by President Macapagal in her first State of the Nation Address last July.

"We are at work everyday, literally, so that the commitments of the President as stressed in her Sona will be achieved," Romulo said.

Romulo said the Macapagal administration had a solid grasp of its objectives and these are: good governance, agriculture modernization, poverty alleviation, tourism and making advances in the field of information and communications technology.

"We feel that we owe it to our people to help them get back on their feet and that is really a chal-

lenge particularly after Sept. 11," Romulo said, referring to the deadly terrorist attacks in the United States.

He noted that the people at large were appreciative of such efforts, hence recent survey findings by the Pulse Asia Inc. showing popular support for the Macapagal administration.

Romulo also belied persistent talks that certain quarters in the military and police are plotting a coup against the President.

"There is stability in this country. I don't believe there is any such thing," Romulo said.

He also said there was no proof to the claim made by Sen. Gregorio Honasan that some military officers were trying to enlist the support of certain businessmen for a power grab attempt.

"I don't think there will be any coup," Romulo said.

AN URGENT APPEAL TO PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO

SAVE OUR JOBS. SAVE THE CEMENT INDUSTRY. SAVE THE ECONOMY.



It's time to stop the indiscriminate dumping of cheap, substandard cement at the expense of Philippine cement manufacturers, their workers and dependents.

Already, imports have eaten up more than 35 percent of the country's cement industry. Since July 1999, more than 3.1 million tons of cement had been dumped by importers. This has caused a 20 percent drop in employment. In fact, three firms – Mindanao Portland Cement Corp., Titan Cement Corp. and Rizal Cement Corp., have closed their plants already causing massive unemployment and despair to 23,400 workers and their families. Two cement companies are about to close their plants too. These unemployment statistics refer to direct employment losses only. The adverse impact on other industries

or businesses indirectly related or dependent on the cement industry is mind-boggling, to say the least.

We must protect the cement industry and its stakeholders who in 1998 alone invested an additional \$2.1 Billion to modernize and make the local cement industry competitive. In contrast, importers who dump cement into the country do not have any investments or stakes in the national economy. Their out-and-out opportunism wrecks the cement industry and renders thousands of workers and employees jobless.

It's time to save jobs!

It's time to save our own cement industry!

It's time to save our economy from predators!



SAMAHAN NG NAGKAKAISANG MANGGAGAWANG PILIPINO NG INDUSTRIYA NG SEMENTO

Tank N' Text shoots for solo 2nd vs Tanduary

STANDINGS

	W	L
Sta. Lucia	8	4
Talk N' Text	7	4
Shell	7	4
San Miguel	6	5
Pop Cola	6	6
Red Bull	5	6
Ginebra	5	7
Alaska	5	7
Purefoods	4	7
Tanduary	4	7

GAMES TODAY (Araneta Coliseum)

5:05 p.m.—Talk N' Text vs Tanduary

7:10 p.m.—San Miguel vs Red Bull

RED BULL mentor Yeng Guiao has a ready answer when asked to point out the reasons for the Thunder's roller-coaster campaign in the ongoing PBA Governors Cup.

"We're suffering from a hangover," Guiao told the INQUIRER. "The hunger and intensity are missing. There is no

sense of urgency."

Before this conference, Red Bull won the Commissioner's Cup at the expense of San Miguel Beer.

In the first game at 5:05 p.m., Talk N' Text guns anew for its eighth win and the twice-to-beat advantage when it battles improving Tanduary.

After a three-game winning streak, the Thunder tumbled with two straight losses, putting in jeopardy their bid to enter the quarterfinals. Red Bull clashes

with San Miguel Beer at 7:10 tonight in an all-important game which will determine whether it can make the next round.

Guiao, who is one of the leading candidates as coach of the Asiad-bound Philippine team, said Ray Tut isn't a bad import.

"But Ray should be able to show that he can play defense against the other imports," Guiao said.

The return of Eric Menk has lifted the sagging fortunes of Tanduary, which

is tied with Purefoods at 4-7. Ginebra and Alaska sport 5-7 slates, turning the remaining two elimination play dates very exciting.

"The good thing is we control our destiny," said Tanduary mentor Derek Pumaren.

Menk poured in 32 points as Tanduary edged San Miguel, 92-90, in overtime on Nov. 2. Billy Thomas, Dondon Hontiveros, Dindo Pumaren, Jeffrey Cariaso and Noli Locsin are also playing

spirited basketball for the Rhummasters.

Brandon Williams will again lead the Phone Pals but coach Louie Alas needs to get consistent games from Asi Taulava, Dong Camaso, Jerry Codifera and Vic Pablo in order to win.

Guards Gherome Ejercito and Patrick Fran are also having trouble setting up Talk N' Text plays. The Beermen are sporting a 6-5 card and must win in order to boost their bid for a seat in the Magic Four.

Dennis U. Erosa

FedEx Laguna eyes 5th win versus Negros

FEDEX Laguna targets its fifth straight victory when it clashes with Negros anew in the MBA Second Phase at the San Luis Sports Complex here.

The Lakers bested the Slashers, 95-88, in Bacolod City on Oct. 19 and are slight picks to do a repeat owing to their homecourt advantage and high morale.

Fil-Ams Chris Clay and Jeffrey Flowers will again spearhead the Lakers' bid to post their eighth win against three losses that would put them ahead of the idle Andok's San Juan Knights (8-3) in the Northern Conference.

Clay is pacing the league in scoring with an average of more than 30 points per game, while Flowers is leading it over the boards with more than 15 rebounds per outing.

Support will come from Biboy Simon, Richie Melencio and Chris Nicdao.

The Slashers are smarting from an 82-68 beating dealt them by the LBC Batangas Blades Sunday night, but are assured of finishing first in the Southern Conference eliminations with an 8-3 record. Being the No. 1 qualifier, Negros draws a bye in the semifinals and is sure to contend for the conference crown.

If only to appease their fans, however, the Slashers need to exact revenge over the Lakers.

Cebuana Lhuillier battles Nueva Ecija in the 3 p.m. opener at the Cebu Coliseum, needing a win to ensure it of winding second in the Southern Conference and gaining the homecourt edge in its best-of-three series with TPG Davao.

MBA games are being telecast live over National Broadcasting Network 4 Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays.

Meanwhile, MBA commissioner Butch Antonio fined Gems Carlos Sayon, Joey Santamaria and Roy Lura P2,000 each for unsportsmanlike conduct during their 135-112 loss to the TPG Davao Eagles on Sunday.

Roy Luarca

Second Phase Standings

	W	L
North		
LBC Batangas	10	1
Andok's S. Juan	7	3
FedEx Laguna	7	3
Nueva Ecija	2	8
South		
Negros	8	3
Cebuana Lhuillier	4	7
TPG Davao	3	8
Socsargen-Taiguig	3	11

GAMES TODAY

Cebu Coliseum

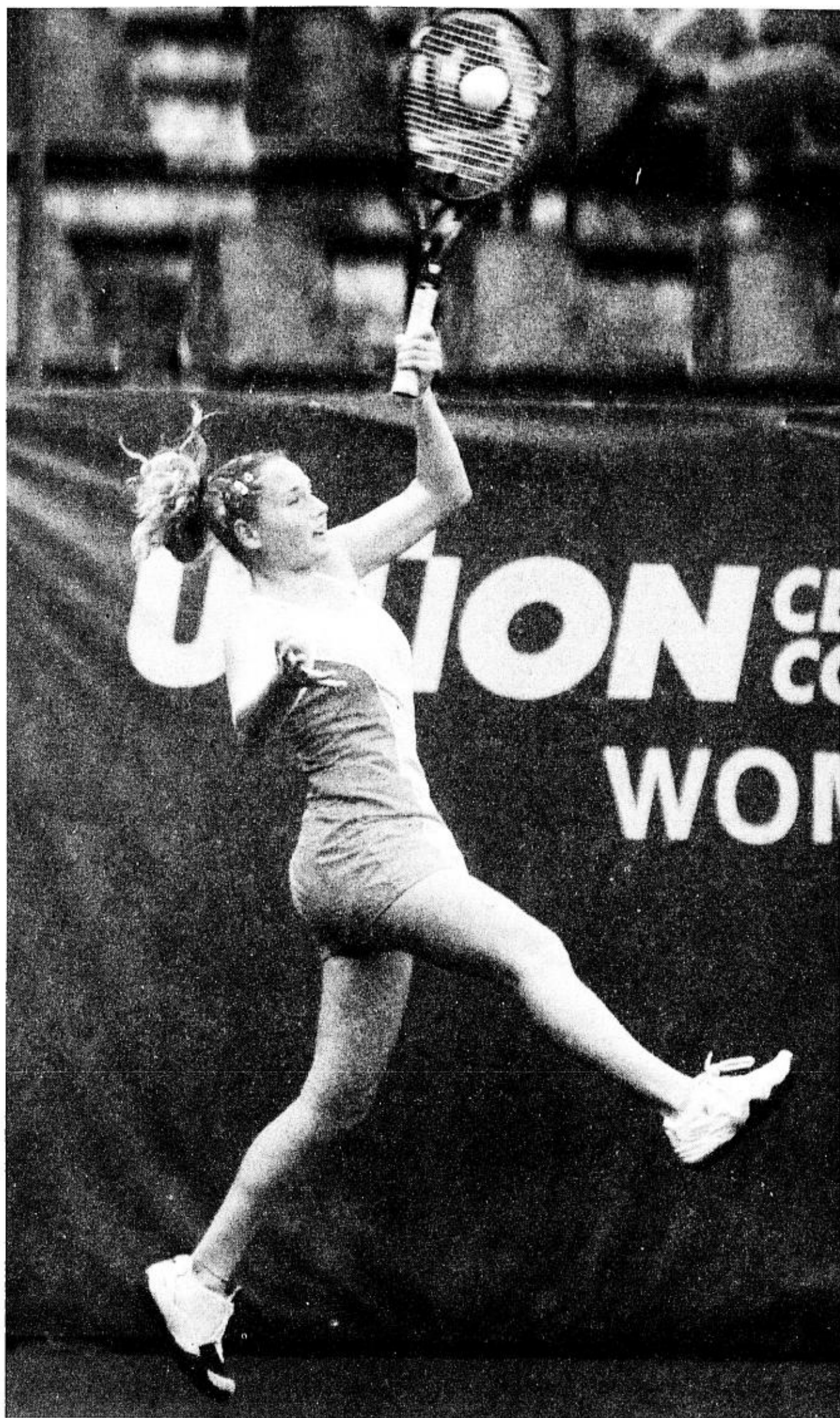
3 p.m.—Nueva Ecija vs

Cebuana Lhuillier

San Luis Sports Complex

5:30 p.m.—Negros vs

FedEx Laguna



MIREIA Gil of Spain leaps to return a lob by Kim Jin-Hee of Korea during yesterday's Union Cement/ITF Women's Circuit match at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center. Gil lost, 6-1, 6-0.

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

RP netters decry Mamiit 'favoritism'

BY MARC ANTHONY REYES

JOHNNY Arcilla, the country's No. 1 player, yesterday expressed disappointment over the statement given by Philippine Tennis Association president Buddy Andrada regarding his desire to send Cecil Mamiit to the Asian Games next year.

Arcilla said he asked Andrada about their status in the Pusan Asiad now that the Phila chief announced that he will either send the Fil-American tennis sensation to the Games or none at all.

"What's the point of training when we can't be part of the national team to

the Asian Games," said Arcilla, who rose from being the age-group champion to be the country's No. 1 player.

To console the player's feelings, Andrada promised to field Arcilla to a tournament in Vietnam, which will give wild card entries to the Australian Open next year.

But sources said the rest of the national team, including Michael Mora and Joseph Victorino, were clearly affected by Andrada's statement which was viewed as saying they are not good enough for the Asian Games.

Andrada said he will send only Mamiit because he's "the only one" who has a chance of winning the gold in the Asian

Games. The cost of Mamiit's services, however, was reportedly pegged at \$175,000 or P8.9 million.

While Andrada didn't deny his earlier stand on Mamiit, he clarified he didn't talk about money matters with Mamiit, whom he asked to play only for "flag and country."

Andrada said Mamiit told him that he might find time to play for the Philippines in the Asiad next September after he wasn't chosen to the United States Davis Cup team.

Moreover, Andrada said he promised Mamiit that he will fund the player's training and travel expenses.

Pacquiao feeling good in America

INTERNATIONAL Boxing Federation super bantamweight champion Manny Pacquiao is feeling good and confident of beating World Boxing Organization counterpart Agapito Sanchez of Dominican Republic in their unification title fight on Sunday (Manila time) at the Billy Graham Civic Center in San Francisco.

Rod Nazario, Pacquiao's business manager, told this to Viva Vintage Sports in an overseas call yesterday.

Viva Vintage Sports will telecast the fight via satellite beginning at noon over RPN 9.

"He (Pacquiao) weighed one pound over the limit at 123 and has been battering his sparring partners under the guidance of accomplished trainer Freddie Rocha at the Wild Card Gym near Hollywood.

Nazario quoted Pacquiao as saying, "I have to bring two belts back home so I am practicing how to wear them."

Nazario added Pacquiao would have "a light workout" early Wednesday before flying to San Francisco for the fight with Sanchez.

Pacquiao, the only reigning Filipino world champion, holds a record of 24 knockouts in 33 wins. He has two defeats. Sanchez has a 33-win, 7-loss, 1-draw tally, with 20 knockouts.

The Top Rank Inc. championship doubleheader will also feature undefeated super featherweight champion Floyd "Pretty Boy" Mayweather against No. 1 contender Jesus Sanchez.

Bumgarner routs Subic karting foes

CDS Gulf Oil's Edward Lee Bumgarner routed the field in the recent final heat of the Formula 125 class to cap the prolific run by the Bumgarner stock in karting in the 2001 Zed MP Turbo Speedfest.

The race, held at the Le Mans Kart Track at the Subic Freeport Zone in Olongapo, had Bumgarner pulling away unchallenged.

American Kelly Jones took second but not after working hard to ward off the relentless attacks of Super series KT Light campaigner JP Carino and Finn Juha Roihia throughout the heat.

The battle for the fifth spot was no less exciting as expatriates Walter Angel and Fredo Olmsted engaged Olongapo councilor Rolan Paulino in a similarly tight contest replete with bumps and crashes.

Speedfest 2001 is a four-leg multi-motorsports event which will be staged at different sites with the Subic Freeport Zone every other weekend.

Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority Chair Felicitio Payumo graced the event's opening ceremonies and flagged off the event opener Cadet race.

Speedfest 2001 is sponsored by Zed Gulf Oil, BLTB Co., Gatorade, Daye Motorcycles, Timex Watches, Snapple, Rainforest Mineral Water, Gandour, DJ Mix Cigarettes, Universal Motors Corporation, Mitsubishi Motors, GM Autoworld Makati, Francisco Motors Corporation and Subic Lemans Kor Track.

Second generation Bumgarners, Mark and Michelle, proved too classy for the opposition in the Cadet 85 battles.

The siblings, who likewise drove under the CDS Gulf Oil banner, thrilled the huge holiday crowd with a fantastic display at the budding driving savvy.

PAL Mabuhay golf draws huge field

MORE than 200 golfers, most of them

leaders of business and industry, will tee off on Friday for the 9th edition of Philippine Airlines' Mabuhay Club Invitational Golf Tournament at the Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club in General Trias, Cavite.

Competition will be in four divisions over the equally challenging Faldo and Aoki layouts. Classes A and B as well as the male guests will be tackling the Faldo course while Classes C, D and all ladies will be playing on the Aoki course.

Shotgun tee-off will be at 7:30 a.m. following a ceremonial start at 7 a.m. at the Aoki's tee No. 1.

The event is an annual gathering of the members of the Mabuhay Club, the frequent business and first class flyers

of Philippine Airlines.

For the second straight year, the club's best golfer and the tournament's most dominant player, Gerard Cantada, will not be competing—he has turned professional. But he is expected to lend his presence to the tournament by playing in a flight with PAL professional Cassius Casas and other non-competing guests.

Last year, businessman Jose Antonio "Pope" Lim captured overall honors with a low net of 69 at the Langer course of the Riviera Golf and Country Club. The one-shot victory over Bones Floro was vindication for his narrow loss in 1999, when he lost the championship only by a tiebreak to American Tom Culligan.

Lawyer Pompeyo Nolasco won the

low gross title with an 82.

This year, the hefty Floro, grandson of the late sportsman Danny Floro of Crispa, will be a formidable force, being the lowest-handicapped player in the field.

Organized by PAL, the 9th Mabuhay Club golf is supported by major sponsor Airbus Industries; corporate sponsors AAR International, Boeing, DHL Philippines, Equitable Card Network, IBM and Samsonite/Allen Edmonds; and minor sponsors Asia Brewery, Boysen Paint, Diners Club International, Mandarin Oriental Manila, GAG and Pageor/Casino Filipino.

Century Park Hotel is the official hotel, Malayan Insurance the official

insurer and Anset Holidays the exclusive provider of transport services for the tournament.

An automatic 1.8-liter Audi A4 luxury sedan courtesy of Auto Prominence Corp. is at stake for a hole-in-one on Hole No. 17 on either the Faldo or Aoki course while a Toyota RAV 4 sports utility vehicle courtesy of Toyota Motor Philippines will be the prize for an ace on either No. 6 or 11 of the Faldo course and the 4th or 15th hole of the Aoki layout.

Round-trip Mabuhay Club tickets for two to different PAL international, regional and domestic destinations plus trophies will be awarded to the winners. PAL tickets will also be staked in the raffle during the award ceremonies at lunch.

Shark stops Blu 5

GAMES TOMORROW (Makati Coliseum)

3:30 p.m.—Montaña vs Welcoat Paints

5:30 p.m.—Ana Freezers vs Shark

BY DENNIS U. EROA

TITLEHOLDER Shark Energy Drink leaned on an explosive finish to subdue Blu Detergent, 75-65, last night in the PBL Challenge Cup eliminations at the Makati Coliseum.

Chester Tolomia's three-point shot triggered Shark's 12-0 windup in the last 2:55 of play, which turned a close game into a rout.

In the first game, Kutitap Toothpaste survived its endgame blunders to edge Montaña Jewels, 76-74, for its first win in two outings.

Eggy Billones scored four straight points as the Detergent Kings tied the game, 63-63, but Shark tightened its defenses and forced Blu to scramble for its shots.

As Tolomia and Irvin Sotto waxed hot, Edwin Bacani turned the ball over twice, while Billones failed to get a clear look at the basket, hastening Blu's downfall.

Rookie Clarence Cole also helped Shark's cause as he finished with seven points and four rebounds despite not playing in the final 10 minutes as coach Leo Austria opted to field his veterans players.

Montaña's Aris Dimaunahan deadlocked the game with a triple, 74-74, but the Jewels' celebration proved short-lived when Jenkins Mesina fouled Mark Saquilayan, four ticks left. Saquilayan iced the game for Kutitap by sinking his two charities.

SCORES

First Game

Kutitap 76—Salangsang 15, Bajar 12, Gelig 10, Sison 10, Saquilayan 9, Bagulo 9, Natividad 5, Lopez 4, Mercado 2, Norrdell 0, Rivera 0.

Montaña 74—Gatumbato 14, David 12, Dimaunahan 9, Macapagal 8, Zamora 8, Mesina 8, Alfad 7, Lao 4, Gottenbos 4, Misola 0, Latoreno 0.

Quarters: 24-21, 45-37, 64-58, 76-74

Second Game

Shark 75—Tolomia 20, Sotto 14, Castro 10, Malaban 8, Cole 7, Robinson 4, Ybañez 4, Limare 3, Basillides 2, Junio 2, Rodriguez 1, Ortega 0.

Blu Detergent 65—Billones 16, Bacani 13, Legaspi 10, Sanz 8, Roldan 7, Gumatay 7, Kalaw 4, Codamon 0, Prior 0, Quiambao 0, Epondulan 0, Calo 0, Santos 0.

Sonics outgun Magic, 123-119

ORLANDO, Florida—Rashard Lewis had career-highs of 36 points and 19 rebounds and Gary Payton scored 32 points Monday as the Seattle SuperSonics defeated the Orlando Magic 123-119 in double overtime.

Payton hit a 3-pointer that gave Seattle a 120-117 lead with 1:16 left in the second overtime. Orlando's Grant Hill answered with a layup, and Payton was called for traveling on Seattle's next possession to give Orlando the ball with 40.4 seconds remaining.

But Tracy McGrady threw the ball out of bounds and then fouled Payton. Payton made 1 of 2 free throws to give Seattle a 121-119 lead.

McGrady missed a driving layup, and Seattle's Desmond Mason dunked at the other end for the game's final points.

Hill led Orlando with 28 points, and McGrady added 27 on 10-of-26 shooting.

Clippers 109, Hawks 86

In Los Angeles, Corey Maggette, starting for the suspended Lamar Odom, scored 16 points, and Quentin Richardson had 20 as Los Angeles beat Atlanta for their first victory of the season.

Odom, who attended Sunday's practice on crutches because of an injured left foot and couldn't have played anyway, was punished by the NBA for violating its anti-drug policy for the second time in nine months. The Clippers went 1-4 during Odom's first drug suspension last March. In ending a three-game skid, Los Angeles beat Atlanta for only the third time in 14 meetings. The margin was their largest ever against the Hawks.

Elton Brand had 13 points and 10 rebounds, and Jeff McInnis added 12 points and 10 assists for the Clippers, who never trailed.

AP

Complete Results: Seattle 123, Orlando 119, 2OT; L.A. Clippers 109, Atlanta 86; Tuesday's Games.

AP

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

BASKETBALL: NBA — Orlando Magic vs San Antonio Spurs at 9 a.m. (r—5 p.m. and 9 p.m.) on ESPN

GOLF: PGA — The Tour Championship, Third Round at 2 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

LPGA — Sports Today Open, Final Round at midnight (r) on ESPN

TENNIS: Masters Series (Paris), Highlights at 8 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

WTA Tour Championships, Round of 32 at 7:30 p.m. on Star Sports

Grudge rematch

MULTI-TITLED San Miguel Beer will be the prohibitive choice when it takes on struggling Batang Red Bull in the main game of a PBA Governor's Cup twinbill tonight at the Araneta Coliseum. Still, basketball fans will be treated to another interesting evening as this will mark the two teams' first meeting since their best-of-seven series for the Commissioner's Cup last August which Red Bull won, 4-2.

At the moment, coach Yeng Guiao's Batang Red Bull isn't particularly impressive, falling to a lowly 5-6 in the team standings and making everyone wonder why it is fast-fading now unlike before when it won its first ever PBA championship just three months ago. Yet many expect a better performance this time for a team widely known for its flashy offense anchored on fearless Junthy Valenzuela, cat-quick Jimwell Torion, No. 1 draft pick Willie Miller, former NCAA Most Valuable Player Kerby Raymundo, skipper Ato Agustin, defensive gems Davon Harp and Mick Pennisi and import Ray Tut, the team's scoring machine last year.

On the other hand, Jong Uichico's San Miguel Beer, sporting a 6-5 card at present, is fast regaining its deadly form behind prolific import Lamont Strothers and aggressive local players led by sweet-shooting Olsen Racela, MVP awardee Danny Idefonso, Nick Belasco, Dwight Lago, Freddie Abuda, Boybits Victoria and tall and beefy Dorian Peña.

BILLIARDS' LETDOWN. Many sports fans, particularly those who are addicted to billiards, were pro-

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo



foundly disappointed that they were not able to read from their favorite newspapers a longer and more detailed report about the outcome of the recent Efren "Bata" Reyes-Jeanette Lee Billiard Challenge where, as expected, the Filipino "Magician" won the monumental mismatch over the visiting "Black Widow," 13-5. What happened?

Sponsored by LG Flatron and organized by the Viva group where Ronnie Nathaniel, a longtime friend, is one of the key officials in charge of promoting the event, the fans said the final outcome was hardly published in the papers compared to the days before the game itself when the newspapers came out with tons and tons of publicity stories.

However, I am not blaming the media for this lack of coverage on the final day because I found out that many sportswriters assigned to cover the Viva-organized event were refused entry to the tournament venue, the Casino Filipino in Parañaque, so how could one expect a full coverage of the affair?

Acap to sue Tuason

BY MARC ANTHONY REYES

ATHLETES and Conches Alliance of the Philippines president Jaime Sebastian yesterday said he will file graft and corruption charges against Philippine Sports Commission chair Butch Tuason today before the Office of the Ombudsman.

Sebastian, who is also the president of the Weightlifting Association of the Philippines, said they have gathered enough evidence to prove their claim that there are rampant cases of graft and corruption under Tuason's administration.

"He (Tuason) challenged us to prove our allegation that the PSC is mismanaged," said Sebastian. "Now we have papers to prove it

and that should be enough for him to step down."

While Sebastian and top Acap officials are filing the suit against Tuason at 10 a.m. today, the group members are set to gather in front of the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex administration building to hear the Holy Mass.

Acap members have been massing around the RMSC grounds for the past two weeks to demand the ouster of Tuason and his four commissioners. They are also asking for the resignation of Philippine Olympic Committee Celso Dayrit.

Tuason earlier said his door is always open for a dialogue with Acap members and added that he will leave it to President Arroyo to decide on their fate.

"How can they say that I don't listen to them when I've been calling on them for a dialogue," said Tuason. "I'm always in the office, they can get in touch with me any time."

Sebastian refused to give the details of his suit against Tuason but said it will involve five incidents where Tuason entered what he termed as "questionable transactions" on behalf of the PSC.

The Acap head also lambasted Tuason's "lack of transparency," alleging that the PSC came out with a directive to all its departments not to issue documents to anybody—including commissioner's William Ramirez, Weena Lim, Richie Garcia and Cynthia Carrion—without Tuason's approval.

Cebu concentrating on 5 events

CEBU CITY—The Cebu City Sports Commission hopes to do its share in developing national athletes for international competitions by prioritizing five sports in its development program—athletics, boxing, taekwondo, gymnastics and dancesports.

This was reached after thorough deliberations of the survey undertaken in several meetings with different sports directors in the province as the CCSC pursues a different course from organizing tournaments and doling trophies to barangay level tournaments.

"Of course, barangay-level activities will still be part of our program. But we want to elevate our goals to a higher level by focusing more on realistic and intensified sports development programs," said CCSC chair Jonathan Guardo.

Children's chess at UP

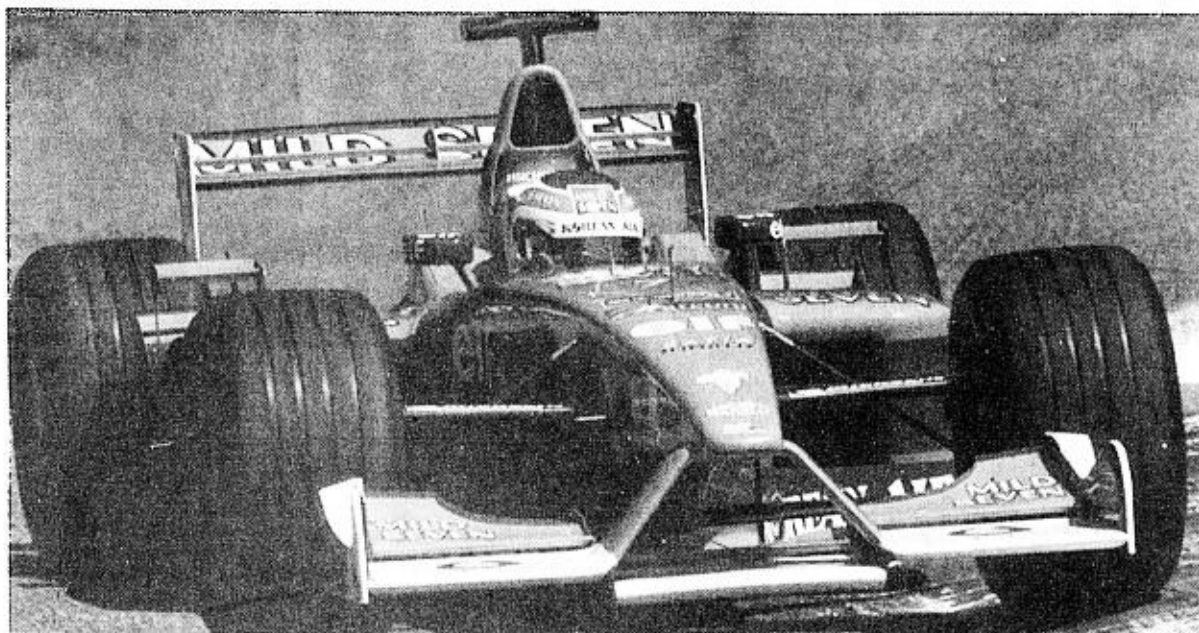
A KIDDIE chess tournament and simultaneous exhibition series featuring some of the country's rising pawn pushers will be held Nov. 24 at the Bahay Alumni of the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City.

The whole-day event, organized by the Parents' Support Group of the Philippine Association for the Gifted, is part of the celebration of the National Week for the Gifted and Talented, held every last week of November.

Noel Albano, the PAG vice president for parents, said Active Chess Center for Asia is co-organizing the tournament which features National Master and Junior national champion, John Paul Gomez, 15, and Kiddie national champion Oliver Barborosa, 13.

Each will see action in the 15-board simultaneous clock exhibit, which comes off after the 5-round kiddie tournament for players 14 years old and below.

Interested young players from schools in Metro Manila who wish to take part in the series may contact Helen or Charisse of PAG through tels. 526-1708 and 521-8450 loc. 2123.



FORMULA ONE CAR

Filipinos and Formula One fans will get the chance to see one of the sleek Formula One cars up close as Mild Seven exhibits the Mild Seven-Benetton Renault Formula One car at the Eastwood Citywalk in Libis, Quezon City on Nov. 10. The car is a precision engineered speed machine that is made from space-age materials. Its finely engineered chassis and suspensions make it one of the most competitive race cars in the Formula One circuit.

Mountain Dew prevails in roller hockey

MOUNTAIN Dew Yellow Gold won its first two assignments in the 2nd season of Pepsi Cup "In-Line Roller Hockey League," beating Mirinda Orange, 13-4, on Nov. 3 at GameworX, fourth level of Festival Supermall Filinvest Alabang, Muntinlupa City.

Yellow Gold top scorer, Guide Sanmote, Eric Rivera and Vince Alimurung were unstoppable as Mountain Dew dealt Mirinda its second straight defeat.

"Very exciting ballgame. It's fine to watch especially when the players are trying to outrun each other. Just like basketball, you can't help but shout every time somebody scores," said GameworX general man-

ager Vinia Yabut. "I'm inviting everyone to visit us here at GameworX to watch our 'In-Line Roller Hockey League.'"

In the other game, 7-Up Green nipped Pepsi Blue, 7-6, to share the lead with Mountain Dew Yellow Gold.

In the junior division, 7-Up Yellow Gold overpowered Mountain Dew Green, 7-1, for its second straight win in as many outings. Pekto Rubio and Winford Palma played heroes for Yellow Gold with their 4 and 3 scores, respectively.

Yellow Gold's first win came at the expense of Diet Pepsi Red, 4-3.

Benny slips; Liza gains

PATTAYA, Thailand—Opening-day leader Benny Dyotoc of the Philippines slipped to a seventh-place tie with an Israeli after 16 games, while teammate Liza del Rosario checked in third after the first eight-game block of the 2001 AMF Bowling World Cup at the P.S. Bowling Pattaya here.

Dyotoc and Israel's Yahav Rabin carded 3448 pins for a 215.5 average in the men's competition of the tournament sponsored by AMF Bowling.

Mexico's Danny Falconi crafted an eight-game series of 1929 pins Monday, including the tournament high game so far of 290, to finish with a frontrunning 3755 pins in 16 games.

Earlier Monday, Del Rosario tallied 1724 to trail

England's Penny Kirsten (1766) and Netherlands' Ross Greiner (1739) at the start of the women's competition.

Del Rosario averaged 215.5 as she emerged as the best performer among other Asian and Southeast Asian bowlers, including former world champion Shalin Zulkifli of Malaysia, who checked in 10th with 1592.

Japan's Nachimi Ikura finished ninth (1597), Hong Kong's Melody Yeung 15th (1539), Chinese-Taipei's Chung-Yao Huang 17th, China's Liao Pei Shun 24th (1456), Singapore's Jennifer Tan 28th (1438), India's Sabeena Salin 32nd (1408), Kazakhstan's Elena Zemtsova 36th (1397), Thailand's Somdech Boonlung 43rd (1347), Vietnam's Thi Hong Thy Vo 53rd (1282), Indonesia's Nur Ulyawati 54th (1266) and Laos' Ketsawan Wongchai 57th (1200).

Weatherkote

The real waterproofing system by Shell

For G.I. and concrete roofs, Wall Damp-proofing, toilets & shower rooms, laundry rooms, retaining walls, basement, elevator shafts, tank lining, industrial flooring



FOR INQUIRIES, PLEASE CALL OUR CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTER:
Tel: 878-4588 (Manila)
Toll Free No: 1-800-1-888-1000 (Luzon)
1-800-1-888-9000 (Visayas)
1-800-1-888-7000 (Mindanao)
E-Mail: info@weatherkote.com.ph

Charity golfest today

FIL-ESTATE Sports Foundation Inc.'s 2nd Sobrepesña Cup, a special third year anniversary charity golf tournament, fires off today at the Legends course of the Manila Southwoods Golf and Country Club in Carmona, Cavite.

A total of 144 players are participating in the 18-hole event sponsored by CAP Philippines and Mitsubishi Motors.

Bob Sobrepesña will lead the ceremonial tee-off in the company of Cammona Mayor Roy Loyola, Mitsubishi Motors president Mel Dizon, former press secretary lawyer Michael Toledo and former tourism undersecretary Russel Sobrepesña.

A brand-new Lancer GSR from Mitsubishi Motors and a golf set from Wilson Sports are at stake as hole-in-one prizes. Other sponsors of the tournament are San Miguel Corporation, Camp John Hay, MRT, Fairways and Bluewater Resort Golf and Country Club, Forest Hills Golf and Country Club, Manila Southwoods Manor, Manila Southwoods Sports Club, Renaissance Towers, Wilson Sports, Federal Management, Bong Lopez and Glenn Macatulad.

United Auctioneers Inc.

DECEMBER 05, 2001

8:30 AM SHARP!

VALENZUELA, METRO MANILA

North Expressway, South Service Road, Valenzuela, M. M.

NO MINIMUM PRICE • TAXES & DUTIES PAID!

EVERYTHING SELLS TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER!!!

INSPECTION & REGISTRATION DATES: DEC. 2, 3, & 4, 2001



10 Fuso Fighter



Unused Daewoo Espero



5 Isuzu MU



50 Toyota TownAce



20 Mazda Pass Vans



100 4x4 JEEPS

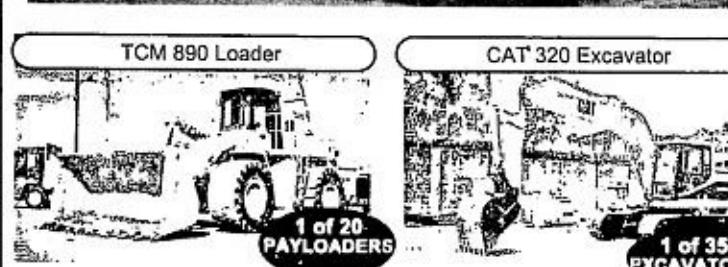
CALL NOW!!
(02) 929-7868 • 920-5501 • 426-3908 • 453-7470/74

FAX: (02) 929-0260 E-MAIL: info@uauctioneers.com

AUCTION IN MALINTA

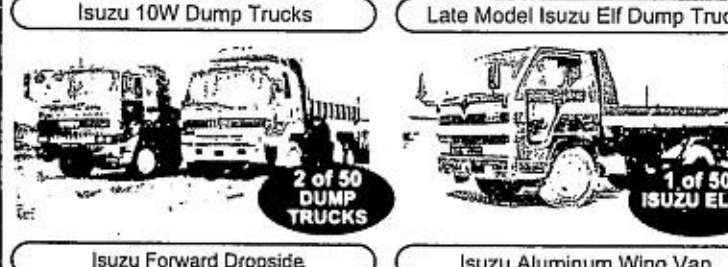
UNRESERVED ALL-PARADE PUBLIC AUCTION

Dynapac CA-25 Vibro Roller



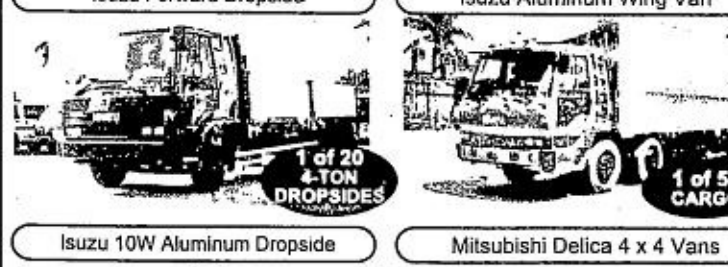
TCM 890 Loader

CAT 320 Excavator



Isuzu 10W Dump Trucks

Late Model Isuzu Elf Dump Truck



Isuzu Forward Dumpsides

Isuzu Aluminum Wing Van



Isuzu 10W Aluminum Dumpsides

Mitsubishi Delica 4 x 4 Vans



Mitsubishi 4 x 4

Late Model Honda Dio Scooters



Late Model Isuzu Elf Dumpsides (Single Tire)

Korando 4 x 4 Jeep



2 of 50 Isuzu ELFs

1 of 20 Korean JEEPS



1 of 50 4x4 JEEPS

2 of 300 MOTORBIKES



1 of 50 10W CARGO

2 of 300 VANS

NOV. 9, 10 & 11, 2001
INSPECTION DATES:
NOV. 5, 6, 7 & 8, 2001
VERY ACCESSIBLE LOCATION!
NO LONG DISTANCE TRAVEL REQUIRED!
AUCTION SITE:
(Former Tate Compound)
Km 19 East Service Rd. North Luzon Expressway,
Lawang Bato, Valenzuela City
For inquiries, call:
984-0215/16 • 984-0278/79
Website address: http://malinta.8k.com
E-mail address: taim@web.ph
ALL VEHICLES W/ LTO LICENSE PLATES
ALL LOTS MUST GO! GUARANTEED NO MINIMUM PRICE
ALL ITEMS DUTIES AND TAXES PAID!

SILVER STORY:
Out for three months.



SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ■ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Weightlifting world mark set

ANTALYA, Turkey — Henadzi Aliashchuk of Bulgaria set a new world record Monday in the clean-and-jerk when he lifted 181 kilograms (398 pounds) to win the men's 62 kilogram (136 pounds) category at the World Weightlifting Championships. Aliashchuk's lift broke the 1999 world record of 180.5 kilograms (397 pounds) set by Le Maosheng of China. The Bulgarian lifted a total of 317.5 kilograms (698.5 pounds). AP

Silver Story suspended

BY EDWIN VILLANUEVA

SILVER Story won't be around in the last three major races on tap this year and probably, early next year.

The Philippine Racing Commission yesterday meted a three-month suspension on the champion grey colt as well as his trainer for violating a horse racing rule following the horse's stunning loss in the Philtobo-Mitra Cup 2 last month.

Noted thoroughbred conditioner Ricardo Paman Jr. was also penalized for breaching section 44, Paragraph c of the Rules and Regulations on Horse Racing or "failure to report to the Board of Stewards before the race any defect of his horse, within his knowledge which may affect its speed in the race, by suspension

of the horse and the trainer for a period of not less than one month."

Businessman Patrick Uy, Silver Story's owner, said he was shocked by the Philracom decision.

"Nakakalungkot (It's saddening)," Uy told the INQUIRER. "By doing so, they deprived racing fans to see a horse like Silver Story compete in the coming major races later this year."

The INQUIRER also tried to contact Paman but he could not be reached for comment.

Philracom's verdict came almost a month after Silver Story suffered his worst loss in an otherwise sterling career.

He ended up dead last in a field of five in the Three-Year-Old Colts race which was eventually won by far second choice Batangas Entry

of Paolo Mendoza.

Silver Story's connections claimed the horse lost because his left foreleg shoe cracked and shunned speculations that he was allowed to run despite being off form.

That loss prompted the Philracom to suspend the horse indefinitely and at the same time call for an inquiry.

The Philracom also based its finding on the sworn statement of star jockey Jonathan B. Hernandez who claimed he noticed Silver Story to be hurting in workouts prior to that Oct. 14 race at the San Lazaro Hippodrome. Hernandez also testified that he told Paman of Silver Story's condition but the latter ignored him.

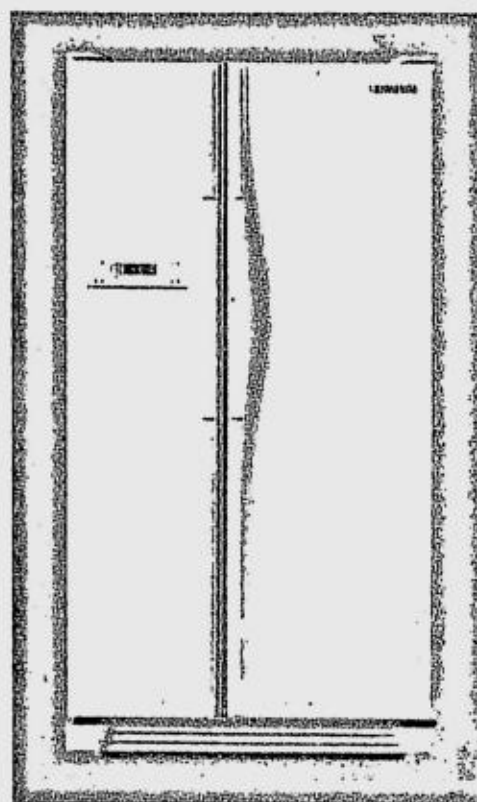
"The responsibility of informing the Board of Stewards or any concerned race official as to

the fitness and actual condition of any horse running in a scheduled race falls squarely on the trainer," the Philracom said in a statement.

With the suspension, Silver Story (Conquistarose-Northern Edge), last year's undisputed two-year-old champion and the 2001 Triple Crown titlist, won't be able to join the 6th Marho Breeders' Cup on Nov. 18, Presidential Gold Cup on Dec. 16 and Philracom Classic on Dec. 29.

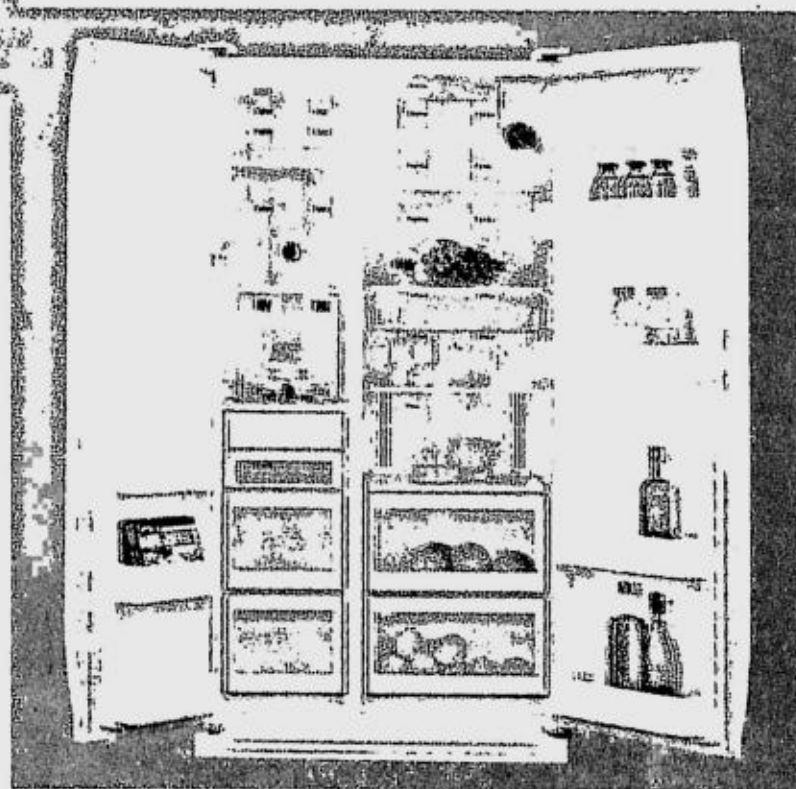
Ethereal triumphs

MELBOURNE—Sheila Laxon became the first woman to train the winner of Australia's richest horse race when New Zealand mare Ethereal won Tuesday's A\$4 million (US\$2 million) Melbourne Cup over 3,200 meters.



Buy a Samsung
Side-by-Side
Refrigerator...

...and look at all
the freebies
you'll get on the side!



Your first load of groceries worth

P 3,000

from

Rustan's
SUPERMARKETS

From Oct.31 to Dec.31, 2001, your purchase of a Samsung Side-by-Side Refrigerator comes with a free gift cheque worth P3,000 from Rustan's Supermarket.*
It's our cool way of saying thank you for making a smart choice in side-by-side refrigerators!

SAMSUNG

SAMSUNG DIGITall
everyone's invited™

For more information, visit www.samsungelectronics.com

Samsung Electronics Philippines Corporation Ground Floor, Bonaventure Plaza, Ortigas Avenue, Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila • Tel. Nos. 722-7777 • Fax No. 723-9392 • For customer service, dial S-A-M-S-U-N-G (726-7864)

*Applies to purchases from all Samsung dealers and outlets nationwide except SM Appliance Center

PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. 3708 SERIES OF 2001

■ Bare Eye: No poetic justice for super squad Welcoat A24
 ■ 21 Fire Code violations in Quezon City Hall A24

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

■ Mathay, ex-councilors face raps over deal with Paref A25
 ■ 12 plead innocent in Ozone disco fire A25

Bomb maker 'a mystery man,' neighbors say



BLASTED to death by his own creation, Hidalgo is carried in a blanket by policemen. **ERIK ARAZAS**

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA
 AND CHRISTIAN V. ESQUERRA

"MYSTERIOUS" was how neighbors described Henry Hidalgo, the suspected bomb maker who was killed in an accidental explosion in his Muntinlupa house Monday morning.

Although the National Bureau of Investigation and the Philippine National Police are still looking for hard evidence to link the suspect to the bloody Rizal Day bombings in Metro Manila last year, residents of Victoria Homes, Muntinlupa said they are convinced Hidalgo was "guilty."

They described Hidalgo as a "very mysterious" man who would only leave his house very late at night.

His abrasive character made him a lot of enemies among his neighbors and he would often beat up his relatives, young and old, whenever they tried to enter his locked room, the residents said.

"We never thought he was making bombs, though we were suspicious of him," resident Joy Marcelo, 26, said. "His death confirmed he was indeed doing something fishy in his room."

Hidalgo was blown to pieces when the homemade explosive he was allegedly trying to assemble went off and ripped his house apart, just minutes after electricity was restored in Muntinlupa Monday morning following a Luzon-wide blackout.

Police recovered from his house 10 to 20 kilos of powder used in making bombs, an improvised timing device and empty 9-mm pistol shells.

They also recovered a receipt for the powder, which showed it was bought before Dec. 30 last year.

Hidalgo's rented house at Block 5-1 Lot 28 in Jade Heights, Victoria Homes was the perfect safehouse for any terrorist, according to neighbor Melchor Barnedo, 32.

The four-room bungalow was isolated, hidden behind tall grass and banana trees in the farthest corner of the village near the Muntinlupa-San Pedro boundary. It is a 30-minute drive on a dusty road from the San Pedro Shopping Complex in Barangay Tunasan.

Since Hidalgo and his relatives moved to the village in 1994, he rarely left the house and barely talked to neighbors, Barnedo said.

BOMB MAKER/A24

DENR's Alvarez persona non grata in Manila for siding with oil firms

BY JEROME ANING

MANILA councilors yesterday virtually declared Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Heherson Alvarez persona non grata for siding with the oil companies in the phaseout of the Pandacan oil depot.



ALVAREZ

No councilor objected when a motion to enact a resolution declaring Alvarez an undesirable person was presented by Councilor Joseph Lopez of the city's 3rd district.

Alvarez said on Monday that it would take a minimum of three years for the oil firms using the Pandacan depot to move out and that the phaseout was dependent on many factors.

He was also quoted as saying he would not agree to the relocation of the depot until there was "imminent danger" to the community around it.

Alvarez had also proposed that the Pandacan community be relocated instead of the depot.

In yesterday's session, 6th district Councilor Jocelyn Dawis-Asuncion took the floor and demanded why Alvarez "(was) acting as the spokesman of the oil firms when he should be protecting the environment and promoting the general welfare of the people as a Cabinet member."

"Is it because he was the principal author of the oil deregulation law

that has benefited the giant oil firms more than anyone?" Asuncion said. "Perhaps this is just a continuation of his relationship with the oil firms."

Lopez stood up and suggested that a resolution be enacted to declare Alvarez persona non grata.

Another 3rd district councilor, Manuel Zarcal, said the city council should also officially oppose Alvarez's confirmation as DENR head before the Commission on Appointments.

The motion was considered carried when councilor Alejandro "Kim" Atienza, the council's acting presiding officer, asked if there was any objection to Lopez's motion. No one objected.

Atienza himself voted in favor of the motion, calling Alvarez's sentiments as "anti-Manileño."

Asuncion was tasked to formulate the resolution, which would be tackled in tomorrow's session. Atienza, the council's president pro tempore, said the body would surely affirm the resolution.

In an interview after the session, Asuncion said the persona non grata declaration would not mean that Alvarez would be physically banned from entering Manila.

"He will be treated as a non-entity as he is deemed by the city as unfriendly and undesirable," she told the INQUIRER.

WAZZZZZUP?
 ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

8th day	WISeguys	WOLFGANG	NOV. 8
ST. FRANCIS SQ. ORIENTAL CTR.	(WEDNESDAY NOV. 7)	634.7696/98	
BUMA	ACOLITES	896.2716/896.1939	
11TH BARANGAY ST. MANILA	SERSIDE	BLADYAK	NOV. 20
PROT. ALMANTA LAY P. 100	STAYTUNED	801.7644	
11TH BARANGAY ST. MANILA	BARRICADE	BLADYAK	NOV. 13
11TH BARANGAY ST. MANILA	KNIGHTS/HERZ	525.1474/525.6269	
11TH BARANGAY ST. MANILA	GOALKEYS	NO ENTRANCE FEE	
11TH BARANGAY ST. MANILA	FREEZE	521.8143	
11TH BARANGAY ST. MANILA	ZYNAXIS	NO ENTRANCE FEE	
11TH BARANGAY ST. MANILA	MR. ROXY/FAT 16	936.9757	
11TH BARANGAY ST. MANILA	D GROOVE	635.0279	
11TH BARANGAY ST. MANILA	M POWER	524.9819	
11TH BARANGAY ST. MANILA	TOCATA	735.1405/735.1280	
11TH BARANGAY ST. MANILA	PURE INSTINCT	890.4735	
11TH BARANGAY ST. MANILA	RAVE	UNLIMITED RICE P25	
11TH BARANGAY ST. MANILA	X-POZ	400.7438/39	
11TH BARANGAY ST. MANILA	FOREST B I G	GRIN DEPT NOV. 14	
11TH BARANGAY ST. MANILA	PHYRIGIAN	(049)571.7268	
11TH BARANGAY ST. MANILA	FEEDBACK	SOUTHBORDER NOV. 9	
11TH BARANGAY ST. MANILA	7TH SOUL	(083)224.4150	

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7 912-8983

NEW LUCKY STRIKE SOFT PACK.

LUCKIES
 AN AMERICAN ORIGINAL

LUCKY STRIKE
 IT'S TOASTED

FILTERS
 KING SIZE

NOV. ENJOY
 THE NEW IMPORTED
LUCKY STRIKE
 SOFT PACK AT A
 GREAT NEW PRICE.
P20.75
 Suggested Retail Price

I CHOOSE
 AN AMERICAN ORIGINAL

Government Warning: Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health.



Get real-life entertainment.
 Call your friends and
 loved ones overseas.

SMART IDD
40¢
 a minute
Simply Amazing!

Just dial + • Country Code • Area Code • Party's Number • Send . Applicable to over 150 destinations worldwide.

No poetic justice for super squad Welcoat

ONE glance at the TV screen during the PBL Challenge Cup opening readily bared something was wrong. There was a big, uneven glow out there.

The superiority of one squad, specifically Welcoat Paint, was so unnerving the referee should have put a stop to the contest at the end of the second quarter.

If in a horse race, Welcoat should have been assessed a hefty handicap before it was let loose on its dominant gallop.

It was not a boxing tussle either, so no towel was thrown in.

Sorry to say this, but Welcoat no longer looks good for the PBL. It tends to make all the other amateur teams look inferior, out of place.

Truth is, for the past two years, Welcoat, feeling it's now ripe for the pros, has been clamoring to play in a grander playground where it feels it fits.

The most dominant team in the PBL has been knocking, with no let-up, on the massive, mythical doors of the professional Philippine Basketball Association.

It has so far gotten no clear answer.

Many fans do not know this, but the Welcoat mission to break into the rich PBA marketplace is being spearheaded by retired airwalker Samboy Lim, the team's designated ambassador of goodwill.

In a sidecourt weekend talk with the eminent, multi-awarded poet Alfred A. Yuson, Samboy started to wonder why their application in the PBA has not been honored.

Krip Yuson, after an exchange of sporting pleasantries, a few reminiscences with Samboy, wondered if this reporter could do some sort of lobbying, in print, for Welcoat's bid to turn pro.

Wrote Krip: "There is poetry in sports, no doubt. We should

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad



all come up with more poetry on sports and sports figures. I don't know if a poem on Welcoat's PBA application can help dear Samboy. But justice should be served for all that waiting, poetic or simply fair-minded as it may be."

Much obliged, I rang up the Office of the PBA commissioner.

Can't Welcoat be accorded the rights the PBA had rewarded the Red Bull squad, after having likewise dominated and outgrown the amateur PBL backyard?

In the first place, we added, wouldn't adding another worthy squad to the PBA roster of 10 be a big plus factor for the pro league?

And doesn't the rule that the more the merrier apply in the PBA?

Yes, they do believe in the majesty of numbers, explains PBA Executive Director Sonny Barrios, but the league thrives on rhyme and reason dictated by balance.

"If we take in an eleventh squad now, our current format, which we feel is quite even and progressive, would be wrecked," Barrios explains. "It would be very hard to proceed with salient scheduling with eleven squads, instead of the even ten."

But what with 12 teams, instead of only 11?

That sounds both legit and good, Barrios counters, the even-dozen roster could be divided into two groups, but when the PBA last amended its rules, it was agreed that, if an extra club is to be added to the established league roster of ten,

there should be unanimity among board members.

"Which simply means that, if even only one club votes against the addition, the motion would be promptly ruled out," Barrios says.

Of course, Welcoat's bid had not been all that dark and hopeless.

There was a point earlier, after the membership of Purefoods had hung in the balance, when Welcoat stood the chance of being let in.

The PBA says that if Purefoods had been denied continuous membership after it was bought by San Miguel Corp., the only pertinent move was to usher in the long-frustrated Welcoat squad.

So where does Welcoat stand now?

As things look, Barrios says, Welcoat, with all its worth, has no other choice but to let go of its big starts, like Ren-Ren Ritualo and Yancy de Ocampo, who are expected to join the next PBA draft.

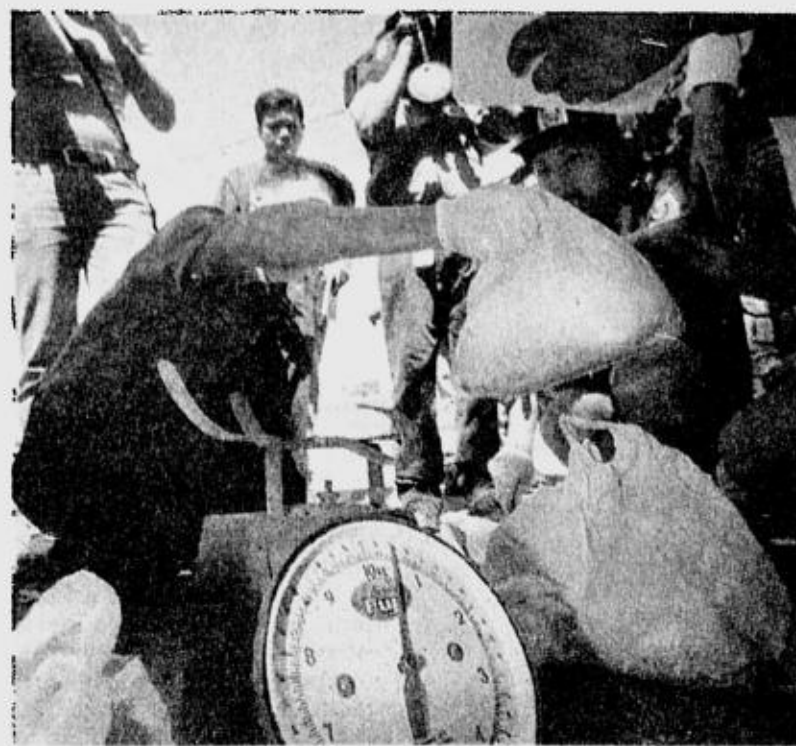
And stay put in the PBL?

Yes, says a PBL insider, Welcoat may have to linger longer in the amateur backyard, but with a depleted super lineup. That's if the team doesn't make good its old threat to take a leave of absence.

If it hangs on, Welcoat will momentarily have to race like a superhorse that, through no fault of his, was assessed a forced handicap.

Someone actually suggested joining the MBA. But it's obviously not in the amateur super squad's fallback plan to play in the other pro league.

The Paint Masters could agree to suffer this injustice rather than help paint the basketball town a sick, somber gray.



GUNPOWDER that Hidalgo used in making explosives is inspected by police.

ERIKARAZAS

21 Fire Code violations in QC Hall

BY AGNES E. DONATO

QUEZON City Hall could be another Manor Hotel if the local government would not take immediate action about the 21 Fire Code violations found in the building.

Councilor Godofredo Liban III pointed this out in his proposed resolution urging Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. to take the necessary preventive measures to resolve the 21 Fire Code violations.

Chief Insp. Oscar Villegas, officer in charge of the Quezon City Fire Station, found out last August that the City Hall was indeed a fire hazard, according to Liban.

In an "after-inspection report" he submitted to Belmonte, Villegas claimed that the city hall poses a "clear and present danger" to the lives of the employees as well as those transacting business in it.

Among the violations cited in the report were defective and inadequate fire alarm and alerting systems, defective and inadequate portable emergency lighting devices and system, insufficient exit markings and lighted directions, fire exit signs and unprotected vertical openings between floors.

It was also found out that the building had no fire brigade organization, had defective fire dampers, insufficient number of approved portable fire extinguishers, and accumulated combustible materials.

"It is very unfortunate indeed if a big fire will occur in the City Hall, particularly in the wake of the notorious Manor Hotel fire incident," Liban said.

With a report from Creamy Cedillo

Bomb maker 'a mystery man' ...

(From page A23)

He would go out twice a week at the most, very late in the evening and return home before dawn the following day, according to Marcelo.

"We have no idea where he went," Marcelo said. "But we would often see him roaming the village as if searching for something."

Whenever Hidalgo was inside his house, neighbors would often see him beating up his relatives, particularly his nephews and nieces, Marcelo said.

"Sometimes, we would see him slamming a relative's head against the wall when (the relative) tried to enter his room to clean it," he said.

One time, the relatives sought the help of barangay officials who then detained Hidalgo, according to Marcelo.

Last May, an explosion from an alleged homemade bomb ripped a wall near the barangay hall, he said.

Also, on rare occasions he was outside his house, Hidalgo would allegedly give his neighbors "dagger looks as though he wanted to kill them," according to Marcelo's mother Norma, 59.

Two years ago, Hidalgo reportedly had a heated argument with a woman neighbor. The woman was later shot to death by an unknown gunman.

Police found empty shells of a 9-mm pistol from the wreckage of Hidalgo's house on Monday.

NBI agents are trying to find out if the suspected bomb maker was the mysterious "Efrén Torres," an alleged police superintendent based in Rizal who reportedly acted as the middleman between the mastermind and the hired bombers of the Dec. 30 attack.

Director Reynaldo Wycoco yesterday ordered Efrén Meneses Jr., head of the NBI Anti-Fraud and Computer Crimes Division, to coordinate with the Muntinlupa police to get pictures and information on Hidalgo.

"The NBI is investigating the Dec. 30 bombings so it's just prudent for us to look if Hidalgo was connected with the bombings," Wycoco said.

He said Hidalgo's pictures would be shown to the NBI's witnesses and the three suspects from Mindanao who are under the bureau's custody.

Wycoco said the three suspects had "volunteered to talk."

He said the alleged Col. Torres acted as the middleman between Jimmy Arinday, the alleged recruiter of the bombers, and the mastermind.

The NBI has identified eight persons who were allegedly involved in the plot. Besides Arinday and Torres, the others are Hadji Onos, Amir Dimaampo, Salvin Camama, Ibrahim Guindolongan, Roberto Onyot and Rogelio Cagadas.

The December 30 bomb attacks killed 22 people and injured 96 others.

Both Arinday and Torres were reportedly trained in handling explosives by the Moro Islamic Liberation Front from 1982 to 1985.

ROTC optional next year—Cayetano

THE RESERVE Officers' Training Course (ROTC) will definitely be optional next school year, according to Sen. Renato Cayetano, chair of the Senate committee on education.

Cayetano said Congress would approve this month the bill making ROTC optional for male college students.

"There's no stopping the passage of the bill," he said. "Starting next school year, college students will no longer be required to take the two-year military training course."

Under the proposed law, col-

lege students can opt to serve as "ecological warriors" and help in the rehabilitation of waterways, render services in aid of disaster and relief operations and provide support to traffic management.

Students may also help in the implementation of barangay livelihood support projects, serve as teaching assistants in public schools, or work as interns in national or local government offices.

Students now on their first or second year in college can opt to wait until next school year to take the alternative service courses instead of the ROTC. C.D. Balana



ADVISORY

Cebu Pacific would like to call the attention of the public to the following Commuter Pass numbers:

FROM	TO
4080 426 580	4080 426 601
4080 426 602	4080 426 612
4080 433 125	4080 433 190
4080 476 597	4080 476 607
4080 476 608	4080 476 618
4080 476 652	4080 476 662
4080 479 798	4080 479 852
4080 483 846	4080 483 856
4080 486 651	4080 486 683
4080 486 684	4080 486 716
4080 486 717	4080 486 727
4080 486 728	4080 486 738
4080 486 750	4080 486 771
4080 486 772	4080 486 804
4080 486 805	4080 486 815
4080 486 816	4080 486 837
4080 486 838	4080 486 848
4080 486 849	4080 486 870
4080 486 871	4080 486 936
4080 486 937	4080 487 002
4080 487 003	4080 487 068
4080 487 069	4080 487 134
4080 487 135	4080 487 167

Please be advised that the above commuter passes were obtained from Cebu Pacific through unauthorized means. For your protection and convenience, please refrain from purchasing any of the Commuter Passes bearing the said numbers.

Should you find yourself already holding any of these passes, kindly get in touch with our Customer Service Department at this number (02) 853-0113 for assistance.

Thank you.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, November 7, 2001
31st Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading:

Gospel:

Rom 13:8-10

Lk 14:25-33

One day, when large crowds were walking along with Jesus, he turned and said to them, "If you come to me, without being ready to give up your love for your father and mother, your spouse and children, your brothers and sisters, and indeed yourself, you cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not follow me carrying his own cross cannot be my disciple."

Do you build a house without first sitting down to count the cost to see whether you have enough to complete it? Otherwise, if you have laid the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone will make fun of you: This fellow began to build and was not able to finish."

And when a king wages war against another king, does he go to fight without first sitting down to consider whether his ten thousand can stand against the twenty thousand of his opponent? And if not, while the other is still a long way off he sends messengers for peace talks. In the same way, none of you may become my disciple if he doesn't give up everything he has."

Commentary

Jesus makes four demands for discipleship: renunciation of family, possessions, and even one's own life, and the cross. Commitment to Jesus must have to rise above what the human heart seeks: security in affection and in material well-being, preservation of life, and a life without pain. The cross is essential if the disciple is to follow the Master. What is the cross? The cross of Jesus is basically a rejection by authorities in religion. Even his own disciples desert him at the time of his trial. For us, the image of this cross is something like a rejection which we don't deserve. Any suffering of the righteous is a suffering for God. Jesus does not allow a part-time discipleship. It's all or nothing.

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (EVIDENCE)—Preponderance of evidence—In civil cases, the party having the burden of proof must establish his case by a preponderance of evidence. Preponderance of evidence is the weight, credit and value of the aggregate evidence on either side and is usually considered to be synonymous with the term "greater weight of the evidence" or "greater weight of the credible evidence." Preponderance of evidence as a phrase which, in the last analysis, means probability of the truth. It is evidence which is more convincing to the court as worthy of belief than that which is offered in opposition thereto. Rule 133, Section 1 of the Rules of the Court provides the guidelines in determining preponderance of evidence. In the case at bar, the judge who heard and saw the witnesses testify was not the same judge who penned the decision. As such, this Court is deprived of some important details necessary to determine the weight of evidence for either party. Be that as it may, this Court shall endeavor to weigh the evidence based on other factors available to this Court as can be gleaned principally from the recorded testimonies and the cold, hard transcripts of the case. [Citations omitted.] Justice Ynares-Santiago, Go v. Court of Appeals, G.R. No. 112550, February 5, 2001]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

Public service on radio

"CAAG in Action," a new public service radio program over Radyo ng Bayan (DZRB, 738 KHz), was recently launched to serve victims of crime and injustice.

Hosted by veteran broadcast journalist Roger S. Santos, the program airs from 4 a.m. to 5:30 a.m. Sundays.

Santos is the national president of the Citizens Anti-crime Assistance Group (CAAG), a non-government organization which for the past 14 years has been assisting law enforcers in apprehending criminals.

CAAG also provides food, medicine, clothes and relief goods to victims of calamities. It has been conducting regular medical and dental missions and gift-giving activities.

It has established 23 new chapters nationwide.

Caravana

FELIZA M. Caravana, widow of Jacinto A. Caravana of Parañaque City, was buried yesterday at the Manila Memorial Park in Sucat, Parañaque.

She died last Saturday at the age of 102.

Surviving her are her children Nena C. Allas, Josie C. Tanson, Belen C. Mendoza, Cecilia C. Sajol and Jacinto Jr., Pablo and Rogelio. Her eldest son Herminio died in 1999.

Also surviving her are her sister Leticia C. Saycon and brother Apolinario Caravana.

Mathay, ex-councilors face raps over deal with Paref

BY AGNES E. DONATO

REELECTED Quezon City councilors who approved an anomalous P1-billion Greenmeadows land deal between former mayor Ismael Mathay Jr. and a private school will not be included in the graft case to be filed tomorrow with the Ombudsman by complainant-homeowners from several posh subdivisions in Quezon City.

Lawyer Mario Ongkiko, counsel for the complaining residents from Greenmeadows 1 and 2, Ivory Court Condominium, Corinthian Gardens, White Plains and St. Ignatius, said the nine reelected councilors were excluded from the graft case "in order to give them an opportunity to correct whatever errors may have attended the ratification of the memorandum of agreement last March."

The nine were identified as majority floor leader Jesus Suntay, pro tempore Jesus Banal, minority floor leader Vincent Crisologo, Eric Medina, Rommel Abesamis, Wilma Amorato Sarino, Alma Montilla, Almaro Francisco and Marvin Rillo.

Ongkiko said Mathay, his son and former councilor Ramon "Bu" Mathay, Paref-Northfield president Felix Mabanta Jr., the school's executive director Pierangelo Alejo, chair Placido Mapa Jr., Greenmeadows III subdivision president Annabelle Brown and others would be charged tomorrow for forging the controversial MOA which gave the Paref-Northfield School for Boys Inc. 50-year exclusive use of a 3.1-hectare government-owned open space in Greenmeadows III without paying rent.

Both Mathay and his son were accused of using their government positions to benefit their family members and relatives, which Ongkiko said is a clear violation of RAs 3019 and 6713.

Aside from Bu's wife, Ma. Ana "Pinky" Mathay, who serves as trustee for personal formation in the school, all of the former mayor's grandchildren by his son Bu are enrolled in Paref-Northfield, the eldest being in Grade 6 and the youngest in Grade 3.

Ongkiko said five of the said councilors, namely, Abesamis, Sarino, Montilla, Francisco and Rillo have reportedly

showed their willingness to revoke the MOA between the city government and the school.

"I am confident that my colleagues in the incumbent city council, including those who were reelected, will vote according to their conscience for the greater interest of the government and its people," said 4th District Councilor Ariel Inton after being informed of the filing of the case.

Inton, who introduced two resolutions for the MOA's revocation, said the City Council can still act on the resolutions despite the filing of the graft charges with the Ombudsman.

Ongkiko said Mathay and the other respondents will be charged specifically with violation of Republic Act 3019 or the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act, Republic Act 6713 or the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Government Officials and Employees, Presidential Decree (PD) 957 and PD 1216.

Ongkiko explained that the private citizens included in the complaint were accused of conspiring with the former city officials

to "acquire the illegal and disadvantageous MOA." The MOA also obligates the Quezon City government to pay the school 25 percent of the appraised value of its buildings and improvements on the property at the end of the 50-year period, even if they had been fully depreciated by that time.

Ongkiko said a legislative inquiry by the Quezon City Council on Oct. 3 and Oct. 10 showed that implementation of the MOA would violate at least two zoning ordinances — the QC Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance SP918, S2000 and the Metro Manila Commission (now Metro Manila Development Authority) Zoning Ordinance 81-01, as well as PDs 957 and 1216.

"The illegalities and disadvantages of the MOA were not corrected by the former Quezon City officials and councilors because its ratification was railroaded and hurriedly passed under suspended rules a few days before last year's elections," Ongkiko said. "This indecent haste has worked against the interests of the city government and to the prejudice of its 2.2 million constituents."

METROBRIEFS

Slain in Navotas

NAVOTAS police are looking for Ji de la Cruz, of Roldan Street, San Roque, Navotas; a certain Iking; and two other unidentified men who were tagged as the alleged killers of Oliver Naval, 26, of No. 6 J. Roldan Street. Naval was shot dead about 12:30 a.m. yesterday after he got into an argument with the suspects during a drinking bout.

Andrea Trinidad-Echavez

Janitor found dead

THE BODY of Roman Rol, 18, a janitor of La Naval Academy in Baco, Daang Hari, Navotas, was found inside the school's recreational hall at dawn yesterday, police said. Rol apparently committed suicide, but his brother Danilo told police he was still confused about his brother's death since there was no reason why Rol would kill himself. Andrea Trinidad-Echavez

Suicide in Mandaluyong

CECILIO Zurbano, 40, of 34 Tindalo St., Marietta Village in Barangay Sta. Lucia in Pasig City, killed himself yesterday in his father-in-law's house in Mandaluyong City, police said. A relative told police Zurbano had been depressed in the past few days because of his financial hardships. Nelson F. Flores

Naked and dead

SWISS tourist Othmar Josef Bamert, 40, was found naked and dead in Room 401 of Julian Hotel on Leon Guerrero Street in Ermita, Manila, police said. A sachet of marijuana, Mogadon tablets, four empty liquor bottles, face powder, and lubricants were found among Bamert's belongings. Police said Bamert was a native of Tuggen, Switzerland. Blood was found on the seat of his pants and on the toilet bowl in the bathroom in his hotel room, police said. There was also bloodstains on the floor near Bamert's body. Police said Bamert might have "suffered internal hemorrhage due to some lingering illness." Bamert was last seen alive about 8 p.m. Saturday drinking beer at the hotel bar. Philip C. Tubeza

Another fetus

A DAY after seven fetuses were found in the Pasig River, an 8-month-old fetus was found at the corner of P. Raga and Wagas streets in Tondo, Manila, police said. The fetus was inside a shoebox and was wrapped in white plastic. It appeared to have just been delivered before it was left there on Monday, police said. Rada resident Felisa Mendoza, 46, found the shoebox containing the fetus. The find came after police found on Sunday seven fetuses in glass bottles floating in the Pasig River. A human brain, intestines and a dissected frog were also found. These could have been specimens used at a hospital or medical school, police said. But the fetus in the shoebox was clearly a victim or abortion, which is a criminal offense in the Philippines. Philip C. Tubeza

QC's most wanted

AFTER several months of surveillance, the "most wanted man" in Quezon City is in police custody. Julito Oliquiano, 21, of Sitio San Roque 1, Barangay Pag-asa, was caught by members of the Central Police District at the corner of Edsa and Kamuning at about 5 p.m. of Nov. 2. CPD director Chief Supt. Rodolfo Tor said Oliquiano was the leader of the Sigue-Sigue Sputnik Gang, believed responsible for a series of robbery in passenger jeepneys and FX taxis. Witnesses also identified Oliquiano as the one who shot dead PO3 Henry Ubalde last June 26 on East Avenue, Quezon City. Andrea Trinidad-Echavez

12 plead innocent in Ozone disco fire

BY AGNES E. DONATO

TWELVE Quezon City officials facing charges in connection with the 1996 Ozone Disco fire yesterday pleaded innocent to charges of reckless imprudence resulting in multiple homicide and multiple serious physical injuries.

Three other officials, who were also charged, refused to enter a plea.

Structural engineer and building inspector Petronilo de Llamas, Bureau of Fire Protection chief inspector Reynaldo Simpao and BFP senior fire officer Enrique Lopez were set to file a petition for certiorari before the Quezon City Regional Trial to question a resolution denying their motion to dismiss the case. The resolution was issued by Judge Cesar Untalan of the Metropolitan Trial Court Branch 39.

Judge Untalan ordered the arrest of building inspector Renato Diaz, who failed to show up at the arraignment although he was informed of the schedule.

Two other officials charged in the Ozone fire had already died—city electrician Jose Enriquez of cardiac arrest in December 2000, and inspection chief Benjamin Malinao only last Monday of a still undisclosed cause.

Present in yesterday's arraignment were city electrician Olgario Tabernilla, assistant city engineer Donato Rivera Jr., building inspector Edgardo Reyes, in-

spection division chief Francisco Ildiong, annual inspection chief Godofredo Angara Jr., processing division chief Feliciano Sagana, finals inspection division chief Rogelio Cantos, building inspector Rolando Mamad, acting building official Alfredo Zamora Jr., engineer Julius Villanueva, city fire marshal Manuel Baduria, and business permit and license division chief Patricio Dumlaog.

They allegedly allowed the Ozone Dance Club to secure a certificate of annual inspection in 1995 "despite the inadequacy, insufficiency and impropriety of the documents submitted" by the owners.

They were accused of failing to "evaluate, review and determine the feasibility and soundness of the plans and specifications of the Ozone Dance Club building" and to notice the changes in the original approved plan. This neglect on the part of the officials allegedly paved the way for Ozone to continue its violations of the law regarding fire and building safety, as well as "to operate and do business in an establishment known and discovered to have been a fire hazard and a fire trap."

At least 160 people died and 90 others were seriously injured when fire razed the disco on Timog Avenue in Quezon City on March 18, 1996.

Two days before the Ozone fire marked its fifth year, a court handed a maximum four-year jail term to two owners of the dance club and fined them and four other board members more than P20 million.



SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Dried twigs and branches take the form of animals, Santa Claus and the Three Kings in this Christmas décor sold along with Christmas trees on Roxas Boulevard in Manila.

ERIK ARAZAS

2 firms join recycling drive vs trash problem

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESQUERRA

A FOREIGN company and a local one have joined the government's recycling campaign as an ultimate solution to the worsening garbage problem in Metro Manila.

HMR Group, an Australia-based company, offered to help Metro Manila local governments recycle electrical wastes, especially those that have "hazardous" components.

Jay Savage, HMR business development manager, warned authorities that the segregation and composting campaign might fail without a sound procedure on the recycling of electronic wastes such as computers, televisions, radios, and telephones.

"Unknown to many, electronic wastes are a serious problem in any country," Savage told the INQUIRER in an interview. "We need to do something about them especially here in the Philippines."

The company offered to recycle and "demufacture" electronic wastes provided that the Metro Manila Development Authority would help segregate them.

The HMR Group has been operating in the Philippines since the late 1980s, collecting electronic wastes from the private sector, and converting them into useable forms.

It also has plants in California and Australia.

Another company, the Bataan-based Chester Industries Inc., offered to improve the MMDA's composting program.

Company president Ignacio Sam said that garbage composts might not become effective without

the proper chemical ingredients.

Composting plants merely store garbage and wait until garbage is natu-

rally converted into useable forms, he said.

The MMDA is currently rallying Metro Manila residents behind its

waste segregation and recycling campaign in an effort to finally solve the garbage problem in the metropolis before Christmas.

Straight news • In-depth analysis • Provocative columns

We'll deliver them all right at your doorstep.

INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARSLESS VIEWS

"The Largest Selling Newspaper Nationwide"

For Metro Manila home delivery, please call us at
528-01-83 • 528-01-86
or mail/fax reply coupon below to

Philippine Daily Inquirer
c/o Circulation Division
Ground Floor, Trinity Building, 636 T. M. Kalaw St., Ermita, Manila Fax No. 528-02-34

I'd like to subscribe to the Philippine Daily Inquirer.
Please have my copy delivered to:

Name _____
Address _____
Tel. No. _____

Signature _____

News that makes a difference



BUREAU OF PRODUCT STANDARDS (BPS)
Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC PRODUCT RECALL & REPLACEMENT

This is to inform the public that the Bureau of Product Standards of the Department of Trade and Industry, has ordered Pilipinas Daechang Steel, Inc. (PDSI), with plant address at Block 16, Lot 2B LIIP, Mampalasan, Biñan, Laguna, to recall its 11 kg LPG cylinders manufactured from 01 Dec 2000 to 31 April 2001. These LPG cylinders covered by the product recall order do not comply with the quality requirements of Philippine National Standard for the manufacture of LPG cylinders.

These substandard 11 kg LPG cylinders have the following serial numbers and dates of testing which can be seen on the cylinders as indicated in the figure below:

Serial Numbers	Date Tested
00001-09574	12-00
00001-09504	01-01
00001-11000	02-01
00001-13681	03-01
00001-00250	04-01

LOOK FOR:

1. "PDSI"
2. Serial No.
3. Date Tested



The consumers can get replacement of their substandard LPG cylinders through the following options:

1. **RETAILERS/DEALERS.** Consumers can bring their substandard empty LPG cylinders to the retail outlets/dealers where they bought the product. OR
2. **"SWAP" CENTERS.** Consumers can also bring their substandard empty 11 kg LPG cylinders to designated volunteer "Swap" Centers listed below. These centers will replace the substandard empty LPG cylinders.

SUPERKALAN
Gas Corporation
Cmpd. 21, Veteran Center,
Tiguing, Metro Manila
Tel: 638-4837

LIQUIGAZ
MAT Enterprises
Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong
Tel: 535-4886

Omni Gas
Sandoval St. cor Mercedes St.
Barangay San Miguel
Pinegrove, Pasig City

LIQUIGAZ
Dragon Gas Marketing
1128 Benavides St., Tondo, Manila
Tel: 254-9270

Mothano Gas
Bgy. San Joaquin
Sta. Tomas, Batangas

Lalvi Store-Velasquez
1677 Velasquez St., Tondo, Manila
Tel: 252-9175

LIQUIGAZ
Boundary Gen Merchandise
Rd 8, Pag-asa, Quezon City

Alby General Merchandise
Tel: 371-5345

Twin Square
Danden cor Bankly Midtown Subd
San Roque, Marikina City
Tel: 645-0116

Altman Trading
Mariano Alvarez St., Las Piñas City
Tel: 566-0895

LIQUIGAZ
Febe Enterprises
2431 Park Avenue
San Roque, Pasay City
Tel: 833-3535

Junevra Enterprises
47D Backbone II
Doña Carlos Village, Pasay City
833-2890

Empire Gas Commercial
Grace Park West, Calocan City
Tel: 351-2141

THIS PRODUCT RECALL IS TO ENSURE CONSUMER SAFETY.

ALL LPG RETAILERS/DEALERS SHALL REPLACE THE SUBSTANDARD CYLINDERS. FAILURE OF RETAILERS/DEALERS TO REPLACE THE SUBSTANDARD CYLINDERS IS SUBJECT TO LEGAL ACTION AS PROVIDED BY R.A. 7394 (CONSUMER ACT OF THE PHILIPPINES), AND OTHER RELEVANT DTI-BPS LAWS, RULES AND REGULATIONS. FURTHER, LPG CYLINDERS COVERED BY THIS RECALL ALREADY IN THE POSSESSION OF REFILLERS/RETAILERS/DEALERS, SHALL NOT BE REFILLED, SOLD, AND DISTRIBUTED IN THE MARKET.

Establishments selling/offering for sale, or otherwise disposing the products that are covered by this product recall are advised to contact the nearest "SWAP CENTER" for the substandard products to be replaced. Recall period will be three (3) months from the date of this publication.

All concerned are reminded that after the product recall period, establishments found to be selling, offering for sale, or otherwise disposing substandard products are liable under the Department Administrative Order No. 09, Series of 1990. Fines of up to P150,000.00 and penalties such as the condemnation or seizure of products that are the subject of the offense shall be imposed to those who violate this order.

(Sgd.) JESUS L. MOTOOMULL
DTI-BPS Director

CONSUMER HOTLINES

• DTI/BPS: 890-5225 to 26 • DTI Consumer 890-4932
• Liquigaz: 854-5489 • 1800-1888-5429 toll free • Superkalan: 838-4837

SM Cinema
SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 633-9999

NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOR 412383	SM CITY NORTH EDSA 935452
1 LEGALLY BLONDE	1 ROSARIO 18
2 SAKIM SA PAG IBIG	2 DOWN TO EARTH
3 DON'T SAY A WORD	3 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
4 DOS EKIS	4 DOS EKIS
5 GHOST OF MARS	5 AMERICAN PIE 2
6 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO	6 LEGALLY BLONDE
7 JOY RIDE	7 GHOST OF MARS
8 DOWN TO EARTH	8 DON'T SAY A WORD
9 AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS	9 AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
10 MANANABAS	10 MANANABAS
11 JOY RIDE	11 JOY RIDE
12 TRAINING DAY	12 TRAINING DAY

SM CENTERPOINT 744322-744141	SM SOUTHMALL 806688
1 DOS EKIS	1 JOY RIDE
2 AMERICAN PIE 2	2 LEGALLY BLONDE
3 DON'T SAY A WORD	3 DON'T SAY A WORD
4 MR. NICE GUY (RI)	4 DOWN TO EARTH
5 GHOST OF MARS	5 AMERICAN PIE 2
6 HIYAS	6 SAKIM SA PAG IBIG
7 DOWN TO EARTH	7 DOS EKIS
8 TRAINING DAY	8 GHOST OF MARS
9 LEGALLY BLONDE	9 ROSARIO 18
10 JOY RIDE	10 AAGOS ANG DUGO

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935749	SM GUADALUPE COMM'L 832893
1 AMERICAN PIE 2	1 DOS EKIS
2 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO	2 GHOST OF MARS
3 ROSARIO 18	3 GHOST OF MARS
4 GHOST OF MARS	3 ROSARIO 18
5 LEGALLY BLONDE	
6 DOS EKIS	
7 DON'T SAY A WORD	
8 DOWN TO EARTH	
9 TRAINING DAY	
10 MANANABAS	
11 HIYAS	
12 JOY RIDE	

SM CITY MANILA 523248	SM CEBU 231074
1 DOWN TO EARTH	1 GHOST OF MARS
2 LEGALLY BLONDE	2 13 DAYS
3 PRINCESS DIARIES	3 MR. NICE GUY (RI)
4 DON'T SAY A WORD	4 AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
5 GHOST OF MARS	5 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
6 TRAINING DAY	6 DOS EKIS
7 THE HOLE	7 AMERICAN PIE 2
8 AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS	
9 DOS EKIS	
10 HIYAS	
11 AMERICAN PIE 2	
12 JOY RIDE	

SM ILOILO 230422	SM PAMPANGA 712815
1 PRINCESS DIARIES	1 LEGALLY BLONDE
2 CLOSED	2 AMERICAN PIE 2
3 13 DAYS	3 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
4 AMERICA'S SWEETHEART	4 HIYAS
5 AMERICAN PIE 2	5 EXTREME FORCE
6 AMERICAN PIE 2	6 DOS EKIS
7 CLOSED	
8 MR. NICE GUY (RI)	

SM MEGAMALL 631901 • 632401	SM SUCAT 634973
1 THE BODY	1 DON'T SAY A WORD
2 TRAINING DAY	2 DOS EKIS
3 GHOST OF MARS	3 GHOST OF MARS
4 DON'T SAY A WORD	4 DOWN TO EARTH
5 DOWN TO EARTH	
6 JAY & SILENT BOB	
7 SAKIM SA PAG IBIG	
8 AMERICAN PIE 2	
9 DOS EKIS	
10 LEGALLY BLONDE	
11 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO	
12 JOY RIDE	

SM TUTUBAN 214302	SM DAVAO
1 GHOST OF MARS	1
2 DOS EKIS	2
3 DON'T SAY A WORD	3
4 DOWN TO EARTH	4

SOON TO OPEN
6 STATE-OF-THE-ART MOVIE THEATERS

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

AYALA CINEMAS
NOW SHOWING

YOUR 24-HOUR LINK TO ALL AYALA CINEMAS 729-7777
reserve seats through www.sureseats.com

GLORIETTA 1 Formerly QUAD	GLORIETTA 4 All Digital Sound	GREENBELT All Digital Sound	ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 TRIP	1 JEEPERS CREEPERS In Dolby Digital Sound	5 DOWN TO EARTH In Dolby Digital Sound	1 THE ONE In DTS Digital Sound
2 THE ONE	2 THE ONE In Dolby Digital Sound	6 DON'T SAY A WORD In DTS Digital Sound	2 THE ONE In DTS Digital Sound
3 KAMO	3 THE ONE In DTS Digital Sound	7 LEGALLY BLONDE In DTS Digital Sound	3 JEEPERS CREEPERS In DTS Digital Sound
4 JEEPERS CREEPERS	4 BUTTERFLY'S TONGUE In DTS Digital Sound	4 SNAPSHOTS & PORTRAITS NOV. 10, 16, 17 - 3 PM NOV. 11, 18 - 3 PM Onstage	4 TRIP In DTS Digital Sound
			5 DON'T SAY A WORD In DTS Digital Sound

M.M.T.A.
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING
EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA (Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72	GOTESCO CINEMA City (Manila) tel 734.8588
1 (DOLBY) GHOST OF MARS	1 (DOLBY) THE ONE
2 (DOLBY) THE ONE	2 (DOLBY) RESERVE
3 (DOLBY) LEGALLY BLONDE	3 (DOLBY) KAMO
4 (DOLBY) DON'T SAY A WORD	4 (DOLBY) HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL
5 (DOLBY) DOWN TO EARTH	5 (DOLBY) TEMPRESS AFFAIR
6 (DOLBY) THE ONE	6 (DOLBY) GHOST OF MARS
7 (DOLBY) JEEPERS CREEPERS	7 (DOLBY) JEEPERS CREEPERS
8 (DOLBY) DOS EKIS	8 (DOLBY) DOS EKIS
9 (DOLBY) TRIP	9 (DOLBY) TRIP
10 (DOLBY) AMERICAN PIE 2	10 (DOLBY) AMERICAN PIE 2

Pearl Plaza Cinemas (Parañaque) tel. 853.4486	Ortigas tel 656.6795
1 TRIP	1 (DOLBY) THE ONE
2 ROSARIO 18	2 (DOLBY) TRIP
3 DON'T SAY A WORD	3 (DOLBY) KAMO
4	4 (DOLBY) HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL
5	5 (DOLBY) GHOST OF MARS
6	6 (DOLBY) JEEPERS CREEPERS
7	7 (DOLBY) DOS EKIS
8	8 (DOLBY) TRIP

Masagana CINEMA (Pasay) tel 831.6603	Universal (Manila) tel 733.2470
1 TRIP	1 THE ONE
2 THE ONE	2 TRIP
3 HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL	3 KAMO
4	4 HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL
5	5 GHOST OF MARS
6	6 JEEPERS CREEPERS
7	7 DOS EKIS
8	8 TRIP

starmall Movies (Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986	Sampaguita (Cubao) tel 921.7888
1 TRIP	1 TRIP
2 JEEPERS CREEPERS	2 TRIP
3 KAMO	3 TRIP
4 THE ONE	4 TRIP
5 HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL	5 TRIP

METROPOLIS st r (Alabang) tel 543.4001	Prima (Pasig) tel 641.1215
1 HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL	1 TRIP
2 TEMPRESS AFFAIR	2 THE ONE
3 TRIP	3 HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL
4 DOS EKIS	4 TRIP
5 JEEPERS CREEPERS	5 TRIP
6 THE ONE	6 TRIP
7 RESERVE	7 TRIP
8 RESERVE	8 TRIP

PREMIERE CINEMA (Makati City) tel 751.2011 to 13	New Divisoria Mall DIVISORIA CINEMA tel 244.4619
1 THE ONE	1 THE ONE
2	2 HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL
3	3 HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL
4	4 HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL
5	5 HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL

Center Plaza Cinema (Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007	Baclaran LRT LRT CINEMA tel 512.0115
1 DOS EKIS	1 (DOLBY) RESERVE
2 FAST & FURIOUS	2 THE ONE
3	3 HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL
4	4 HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC. tel 930.9515	Berma tel 879.2029
1 THE ONE	1 THE ONE
2 HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL	2 THE ONE
3 TRIP	3 KAMO

Spring (Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864	CitiMall (Parañaque) tel 820.7269
1 TRIP	1 TRIP
2 KAMO	2 TRIP
3	3 KAMO
4	4 HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL

Sunshine (FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376	Fourstep (Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385
1 THE ONE	1 CLOSED
2 TRIP	2 CLOSED
3 KAMO	3 CLOSED
4 HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL	4 CLOSED

Emperador (Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657	Fiesta World Mall (Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 TRIP	1 DOS EKIS
2 ROSARIO 18	2 TRIP
3 SAKIM	3 DON'T SAY A WORD
4	4 HOLE

Jade Cinema (Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03	Cabuyao (Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4888
1 TRAINING DAY	1 TRIP
2 TRIP	2 TRIP
3 SOON TO OPEN	3 TRIP
4 THE ONE	4 TRIP

***Movies are subject to change without prior notice**

ADVANCED SCREENING **TEX** **DOLBY** **dts** **SDS**

NOW SHOWING

THE ONE

PREMIERE

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD
NOW SHOWING

632-0115, 14 / 633-7841 loc. 270
http://www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

GALLERIA 632-0115, 14 / 633-7841 loc. 270	ERMITA 633-7808 to 92
1 THE ONE	1 THE ONE
2 THE ONE	2 LEGALLY BLONDE
3 TRIP	3 DOWN TO EARTH
4 DON'T SAY A WORD	4 GHOST OF MARS
5 JEEPERS CREEPERS	5 TRIP
6 AMERICAN PIE 2	6 JEEPERS CREEPERS
7 TRAINING DAY	7 DON'T SAY A WORD
8 LEGALLY BLONDE	
9 DOWN TO EARTH	
10 GHOST OF MARS	

NOVALICHES 935-3229 to 31	IMUS (046) 471-8188
1 THE ONE	1 THE ONE
2 TRIP	2 TRIP
3 TRIP	3 JEEPERS CREEPERS
4 THE ONE	4 DON'T SAY A WORD
5 JEEPERS CREEPERS	5 GHOST OF MARS
6 JEEPERS CREEPERS	6 HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL
7 DON'T SAY A WORD	
8 THE ONE	

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453	SOON TO OPEN
1 AMERICAN PIE 2	METRO EAST
2 TRAINING DAY	SAN FERNANDO PAMPANGA
3 DOS EKIS	ILOILO
4 GHOST OF MARS	THX ATC SDS
5 THE BODY	DOLBY DOLBY DOLBY
6 JAY & SILENT BOB STRIKES	SMART MONEY ACCEPTED AT ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD GALLERIA AND ERMITA

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	MANANABAS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DOLBY)	13 DAYS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDS)	AMERICAN PIE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	AMERICA'S SWEETHEART
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	EXTREME FORCE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	THE HOLE
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	NAKED NIGHTS
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	MANANABAS
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SCORPIO NIGHTS 2 / NIGHT JOB
ODEON	THE ONE
ODEON-2	SAKIM SA PAG IBIG
ROBEN	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	BROTHERHOOD / STOP

QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL
REMAR	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL
REMAR-2	SAKIM SA PAG IBIG

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA
A TRIP
B THE ONE
C HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL

MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	DON'T SAY A WORD
CINEMA-2	JOY RIDE

CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
CINEMA-2	TRIP
CINEMA-3	DOS EKIS
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	KAMO
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	GHOST OF MARS
CINEMA-6	HIYAS
CINEMA-7	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL
CINEMA-8	TRIP
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	THE ONE
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	THE ONE
CINEMA-11 (SDS)	LEGALLY BLONDE
CINEMA-12	JEEPERS CREEPERS
CINEMA-14	DON'T SAY A WORD
CINEMA-15	TRIP

LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED

POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	JOY RIDE
CINEMA-2	DOWN TO EARTH
CINEMA-3	LEGALLY BLONDE
CINEMA-4	TRAINING DAY
CINEMA-5	GHOST OF MARS
CINEMA-6	DON'T SAY A WORD

UNIWEDE METROMALL	
(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	

UNIWEDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

A26

DE LEON. Stars in GMA 7's "Larawan."

It's ...
(From page A28)

PUP Chorale.
Marco's 22-year-old son, Alain Sison, will also share the stage with him.

Those who will buy the P1,000 tickets will get a free CD of "Maghihintay na Lamang," while those who will buy the P600 tickets will get a free cassette tape.

The concert is presented by Mail and More, the fax and parcel service business which Marco recently put up with his wife, Jojo Aracama. Jojo is the sister-in-law of vocal coach Jai Sabas-Aracama.

Angelu moves on LIVE and let live.

That's probably the message young actress Angelu de Leon wanted to convey after she gave birth to her second child out of wedlock. But Angelu remains such a hot item that whatever she does inevitably becomes fodder for the show biz gossip mill.

When she had her first baby, Maria Louise Nicole, now 2, with actor Joko Diaz, Angelu didn't bother explaining. Even if she was merely in her late teens then, she refused to be affected by the writeups.

When she got pregnant again two years later and then gave birth to Maria Louise Margaret, she gave the gossips a good time even if she kept mum about the identity of her latest lover.

Up to this day, the identity of the father of her second baby remains a secret, especially to her fans.

But Angelu always manages to rise above her trials. Some people may condemn her for her indiscretions, but Angelu ignores their unkind remarks.

"If I would dwell on the negative comments, I would never get anywhere," Angelu said. "I learned to move on despite what had happened. I consider it not a mistake but a learning experience and I hope that others, especially girls my age, will also learn from me."

Angelu admits she's not having a fine time as a single parent, especially without any financial support from the fathers of her children.

"I will never demand money from any of them," she says. "If they give, I will gladly accept."

After her remarkable comeback in the 1999 Metro Manila Film Festival entry, "Bulaklak ng Maynila," which earned for her acting awards, Angelu is giving her career another go. This time, she stars in five-episode series on GMA's "Larawan," Wednesdays, 10 p.m.

At 22, Angelu is giving herself time to fall in love again. Loveless for now, she is a happy and loving mom to her two daughters.

"I can't imagine myself as a wife," Angelu says. "Probably it will take 10 years more before I really settle down. I'm enjoying motherhood now and I value time with my two daughters. They're the most important thing that has happened to me."






DISTRIBUTED BY 20TH CENTURY FOX THRU WARNER BROS.
SECOND WEEK!

www.zed.com

BUSINESS

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ CORRIE S. NARISMA, Assistant Editor

B1

VERITAS
 The Storage Software Company

Tech Pacific

+63-2 893 3553

Asean, China OK giant free trade bloc

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

Peso-Dollar Rate

P 51.965 = \$1

As of 5 p.m.,
Nov. 6, 2001

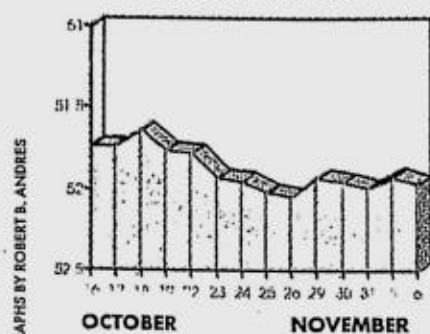
Y 121.55 = \$1

As of 5 p.m.,
Nov. 6, 2001

GOLD: \$278.75/279.25

per ounce Hong Kong,
Nov. 6, 2001

PESO - DOLLAR



STOCK MARKET

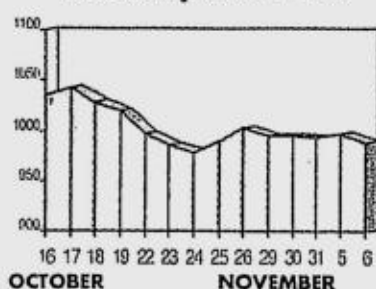
Shares
fall 0.9%

SHARE prices fell 0.9 percent yesterday due to discomfort over the debt problems of some blue chip companies, analysts said.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index fell 8.94 points to 988.56.

"The market's decline for today is really driven by individual corporate developments," said Jose Vistan of AB Capital Securities Inc.

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B4)

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN—Southeast Asian leaders pushed back their economic frontier yesterday, confirming the world's largest free trade zone with China and beginning work on a broader bloc taking in Japan and South Korea.

Approval for a deal with China was reached as the leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) held separate talks with their key dialogue partners China, Japan, and South Korea on closer integration.

The free trade bloc could be operating "in five to 10 years," China's Premier Zhu Rongji told reporters after the meeting.

In the consensus-driven Asean, Malaysia's objections to an inflexible free trade agenda and concern about China's growing importance were expected to be barriers to an enlarged trading bloc covering more than 1.8 billion people.

But Chinese Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan said there were no objections when Zhu met the Asean leaders.

As China stands on the verge of entry to the World Trade Organization, Asean has developed an overriding interest to engage Beijing.

"All countries agreed to set up a free trade zone," Tang said.

With Asean often criticized as a sunset body unable to take decisive action, the agreement highlighted a new urgency to deal with the intense global uncertainty brought on by the economic downturn and efforts to combat terrorism.

"Asean must improve its cred-



ibility as a regional organization and respond decisively to challenges," Brunei's Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah, the Asean chair, said.

He said Southeast Asia discussed "pushing the frontiers of our economic cooperation beyond existing agreements for free trade... and go beyond the Asean free trade area."

Tang said no country objected to the free trade deal with China, al-

though on the eve of the meeting. Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad had expressed fears the benefits could be lopsided and could wipe out Malaysian companies.

"China is a big producer of goods which are in direct competition with goods produced in the region, and we must make sure the influx will not cause our industries to shut down," he said.

A full East Asia trading bloc covering more than 2 billion people was "bold yet feasible," Sultan Hassanal said, but it would expand Mahathir's arguments to include products from South Korea and Japan.

A Japanese government official also downplayed the wider proposal saying "only three or four countries said it was an issue to be considered but there was no in-depth argument on it."

Japan's Asean focus was to help open up development "corridors" in eastern and western parts of Indochina rather than back a railway linking Southeast Asia to southern China, officials said before Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi met the Asean leaders.

Tokyo would back the road projects and offer help to establish various industries along the Maulmying-Mukdahan-Da Nang "East-West Corridor," running through Myanmar, Thailand, Laos and Vietnam, where infrastructure work, including port and bridge facilities, is nearing completion.

Japan will also pledge assistance to another trunk road, the "Second East-West Corridor" from Ho Chi Minh City to Bangkok via Phnom Penh, in collaboration with the Manila-based Asian Development Bank, the official said.

Japan is Asean's most important trading partner and source of investment, although its relative share of investment in the region has declined by 33.6 percent in 1997 to 14.6 percent in 1999.

AFP

CHEVROLET CASSIA 1.6 L

DRIVE ONE
HOME
TODAY
WITH ONLY
P 98,700
DOWN!


GM AutoWorld gives you the best deal on 1600 cars. Get the Chevrolet Cassia at terms you can't afford to pass up. With zero-interest or other low interest financing schemes, or a low down payment of P 98,700, now's your best chance to upgrade to a 1600 — upgrade to a Chevy!

Promo Valid until November 15, 2001.

***MSRP - P 658,000 M/T**

DOWN PAYMENT	12 months	18 months	24 months	36 months	48 months
98,700	47,470	32,848	26,200	18,812	15,165
131,600	44,493	30,788	24,589	17,656	14,232
197,400	38,479	26,627	21,270	15,273	12,312
263,200	32,900	22,465	17,952	12,890	10,391
329,000	27,417	18,303	14,634	10,507	8,470

Zero interest

Above rates are based on M/T model
*MSRP 702,000 A/T model

Plus! **FREE**
Sport-style body kit
ASK YOUR DEALER ABOUT IT.


CHEVROLET

1.6 Liter, 16-valve engine • Anti-lock Braking System (ABS) • All-power features • Alpine Radio CD • Available in 5-speed M/T and 4-speed A/T

GM AutoWorld MAKATI
2307 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City
Tel. Nos.: 814-0217 to 20 / 814-0228
814-0803 / 814-0538

GM AutoWorld QUEZON AVENUE
1201 Quezon Ave., Quezon City
Tel. Nos.: 415-8878 / 415-8133
Fax No.: 372-8008

GM AutoWorld SHAW
500 Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City
Tel. Nos.: 635-4938 / 635-4930
635-1263 / 635-1207

GM AutoWorld PAMPANGA
San Fernando-Gapan Rd., San Fernando, Pampanga
Tel. No.: (45) 983-6888
Fax No.: (45) 983-1333

GM AutoWorld CEBU
Gov. Cuenco Ave., Cebu City
Tel. No.: (32) 234-0428
Fax No.: (32) 231-7780

GM AutoWorld showrooms are open 7 days a week.

GM AutoWorld

Per DTI-NCR Permit # 3408 Series of 2001

Gov't studying offsetting schemes to lift Asean trade

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

THE PHILIPPINES is seriously studying a proposal by Malaysia and Thailand to spur intra-Asean trade through countertrade and offsetting arrangements.

In a news briefing yesterday, Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II said members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations were looking to boost intra-regional trade to compensate for the sharp fall in the region's exports to the United States, which was expected to drop further in the near term.

Philippine exports fell 14.1 percent to \$23.934 billion in the first nine months of the year mainly due to a collapse in demand for electronic products in the United States, the country's biggest

export market.

Roxas said while Philippine exports had been affected by the US recession, other countries in Southeast Asia were more badly hit because a bigger chunk of their exports are shipped to the United States.

The trade secretary said apart from exploring counter-trade arrangements, countries in the region were also considering adopting offsetting arrangements instead of going through standard dollar transactions.

Roxas said Thailand called this scheme the "account trade" or "book-entry system."

Under such a system, exporters in Manila, for instance, will ship out certain electronic goods to Bangkok that, in turn, will export to Manila orchids

of the same value, with payments to be coursed through the Philippines' and Thailand's respective central banks.

Roxas said this would help each Asean country save their dollar reserves while boosting trade.

Apart from jacking up trade in Southeast Asia, Roxas said the government likewise moved to boost the domestic economy in order to shield the country from a US recession.

Roxas has battled for a more diverse export portfolio and broader market base, saying these will help the country sustain its exports.

Roxas met with various leaders in the region during the recent Asean Leaders Summit in Brunei to identify new export items and new markets for Philippine goods.

Oil firms not yet ready to cut prices

BY CHRISTINE A. GAYLICAN

LOCAL oil firms said yesterday they were not yet ready to cut their prices, saying they were still monitoring world crude prices.

Officials of the country's biggest oil refiners said production cuts being prepared by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries could push up crude prices to \$24 to \$28 a barrel.

Opec is set to meet again on Nov. 14. A proposal to cut output by a further 750,000 to a million barrels per day will be on the agenda.

No decision was expected to be taken ahead of the ministerial gathering in Vienna, as Opec heads of state continue consultations about market stability.

Preliminary estimates indicated that overproduction of 1.1 million bpd last month would be reduced by about 600,000 bpd during October.

"It is still premature to bring down prices at this time. Dubai crude prices could still be very volatile. We don't

want to lower prices now and increase it by December. We would want to closely monitor where prices will go after the meeting," Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. vice president Reynaldo Gamboa said.

Gamboa said Opec ministers were aiming to keep world crude prices at \$24 to \$28 a barrel. "If this happens, all our savings with the reduction of Dubai crude (the country's benchmark) will all be wiped out."

Domestic petroleum prices are expected to continue falling next month on weak world crude prices.

Energy Secretary Vincent Perez said on Monday consumers might even enjoy lower fuel prices by the end of the month should the current trend in the world oil market continue.

Perez reported that as of Nov. 2, the prices of Dubai crude, the country's benchmark, averaged \$18.13 a barrel, down by \$1.50 from the October average of \$19.63 a barrel.

In September, Dubai crude prices stood at \$24.12 a barrel.

Consumer and Oil Price Watch chair Raul Concepcion said earlier he expected local fuel to go down by an average P1.32 a liter this month.

The November reduction is likely as the prices of crude in the world market have stabilized to a record low of \$20 a barrel, Concepcion said.

Local oil firms led by industry giants Petron Corp., Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. and Caltex Philippines Inc. have slashed their prices seven times this year on weak crude prices abroad. On average, their prices have gone down by 21 to 35 centavos per liter.

On Oct. 25, Petron led an earlier-than-expected round of petroleum price rollbacks, slashing the cost of its gasoline by 30 centavos a liter and of diesel and kerosene by 20 centavos a liter.

On Oct. 11, oil companies slashed prices by between 21 and 35 centavos a liter, citing improved market conditions between August and September.

Petron, Shell post strong 9-mo. profits

PETRON Corp. and Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. reported yesterday positive earnings before tax of P1.33 billion and P2.75 billion in the first nine months of the year.

These figures marked a reversal from last year's losses of between P2 billion and P3 billion for the two oil firms.

Petron and Pilipinas Shell officials said their strong performance reflected profits from stable crude prices abroad.

They added that the peso appeared to have found a steady level against the US dollar.

Demand, however, remains relatively weak, they said.

Petron said it posted sales of P67.4 billion. Volumes sold slipped 8.6 percent to 35.5 million barrels during the January-September period, it said.

"While there has been a decline in domestic demand for petroleum products, we continue to implement strategic measures aimed at improving revenues and cost efficiencies," Petron corporate communications manager Virginia Ruvivar said.

Petron slashed its operating expenses by P13 million to P2.704 billion in the first nine months of the year.

It appropriated P723 million as capital expenditure this year.

Loans availed for the period totaled P31.83 billion, while payments for maturing loans reached P31.025 billion.

According to the Philippine Petroleum Institute, Petron remains as the top player in the market in the January-September period, with a market share of 34.7 percent as it sold some 31 million barrels.

Christine A. Gaylican

Aboitiz Equity 9-month income hits P1.3B

BY ELENA R. TORRIJOS

ABOITIZ Equity Ventures Inc. said yesterday its net income in the first nine months of the year rose 38 percent to P1.3 billion, as all its business groups showed an improvement in earnings.

In a statement to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Aboitiz Equity said its gross operating income reached P10.55 billion in the January-September period this year. Its earnings per share for the period was at 23.3 centavos.

Aboitiz Equity reported that its net income grew 37 percent to P406 million in the third quarter year-on-year.

In an interview, Aboitiz chief finance officer Juan Antonio Bernad said Aboitiz Equity was running close to reaching P1.6 billion in total profit this year, but fourth quarter earnings were traditionally lower than those in the third quarter.

Aboitiz Power Corp. contributed some P925 million into Aboitiz Equity's bottom line during the January-September period, 80 percent higher than the money it poured into its parent firm dur-

ing the same period last year.

Most of Aboitiz Power's earnings came from its 50-percent stake in Luzon Hydro Corp., a 70-megawatt hydroelectric power plant in Benguet province that went on stream this year.

Aboitiz Power's other investments are in Hydro Electric Development Corp., Northern Mini Hydro Corp., Western Mindanao Power Corp. and Southern Philippines Power Corp.

Aboitiz Power's subsidiaries that were engaged in distributing electricity also posted improved results, with a combined contribution of P435 million in the

first nine months of the year, up 17 percent year-on-year.

Aboitiz Equity's banking subsidiaries generated some P249 million, 10 percent higher than last year's comparative figure. Union Bank of the Philippines contributed around P241 million, while City Savings Bank accounted for P7.6 million.

Aboitiz Equity's non-power and non-banking subsidiaries, including WG&A and Pilmico Foods Corp., generated a combined P174 million.

Bernad said Aboitiz Equity had over P3.5 billion worth of debts.

UCPB plans to raise capital by P6B

UNITED Coconut Planters Bank is firming up plans to increase its capital by as much as P6 billion, as its capital adequacy ratio has dropped below the 10-percent minimum requirement.

According to published statements of condition, UCPB's capital fell by almost a quarter to P6.9 billion in September from P9.2 billion in June. The September figure was also lower by 40 percent from a year earlier's P11.75 billion.

A senior executive told the INQUIRER that UCPB's capital-to-risk-assets ratio was now a little less than 10 percent because of losses incurred this year and the bank's decision to recognize some P3 billion in loan-loss provisions for 2000.

He said UCPB, a bank controlled by allies of San Miguel Corp. chair Eduardo

Cojuangco Jr., had prepared a plan to increase its capital by P3 billion to P6 billion through a combination of fresh capital infusion, or tier 1 capital, and long-term debts, or tier 2 capital.

The capital increase, which will be done in tranches depending on the appetite of investors, hinges on the resolution of cases pending before the Supreme Court.

The court has yet to resolve ownership claims lodged by Cojuangco's allies and the government.

"Prospective investors are waiting for a resolution of whether the owners can really exercise their voting rights," a person familiar with the situation said.

The Sandiganbayan ruled earlier this year that shareholders of a 96-percent sequestered stake in UCPB could vote their shares, but the

Supreme Court overturned this ruling.

Coconut farmers, most of whom are members of the Philippine Coconut Producers Federation allied with Cojuangco, hold a 51-percent stake in UCPB, while the Coconut Industry Investment Fund accounted for 5.7 percent.

Although appointed by the Presidential Commission on Good Government early in the Estrada administration, UCPB chair and chief executive Jeronimo Kilayko and UCPB president Lorenzo Tan were reportedly hand-picked by Cojuangco to lead the bank.

The government wants to replace Kilayko, Tan and other directors of the bank because whoever controls the bank effectively controls a decisive 20-percent stake in San Miguel, one of the country's largest and most profitable conglomerates.

Elena R. Torrijos

U.P. LAW ALUMNI ASSOCIATION U.P. LAW '76 FOUNDATION

CALLING ALL U.P. LAW ALUMNI!

Our Grand Homecoming this year will be held on Friday, 23 November 2001, at the Rizal Ballroom, Makati Shangri-La. Registration starts at 6:30 PM.

For further details, please contact your Class Representative or the Secretariat at Tel. Nos. 840-3783, 815-8843, Fax 813-0885, 893-3556.

VICTORIA C. DE LOS REYES
President

Realty firm asks gov't to shut down CAP Gen

AIDEREH Realty Corp. has asked the Insurance Commission to shut down CAP General Insurance, a member of the College Assurance Plan group.

The Insurance Commission withheld CAP General's license in June after Aidereh complained that CAP General failed to pay a P68-million bond covering a property purchase it guaranteed last year.

CAP general president Enrique Sobrepeña later assured the commission that his company would pay Aidereh, allowing CAP General to renew its license.

"I was assured by Mr. Sobrepeña that he will attend to it immediately," Insurance Commissioner Eduardo Malinis told the INQUIRER.

Aidereh, however, said latest discussions with CAP General had collapsed because CAP General wanted to impose conditions that

Aidereh had nothing to do with.

"I'd like the government to take a look at this because this shatters respect for the insurance industry," Aidereh stockholder Miguel Heredia said.

Heredia said the Insurance Commission's decision to renew CAP General's license was a failure on the government's part to protect the investing public.

"This is very bad. It's like money in the bank you can't take out. It's very clear that they (CAP General) are liable," he complained.

In January, the Insurance Commission determined that CAP General did owe Aidereh some P68 million.

CAP General issued last year a surety bond guaranteeing the obligations of Reiden Development Management & Marketing Corp., which agreed to buy from Aidereh a property along Quezon Boulevard in Quezon City for P80 million.

After a down payment of P12 million, Reiden defaulted on the promised purchase. Aidereh then called on the bond, but CAP General refused to fulfill its commitment.

It turned out that CAP General failed to properly secure the bond with property or other assets of Reiden.

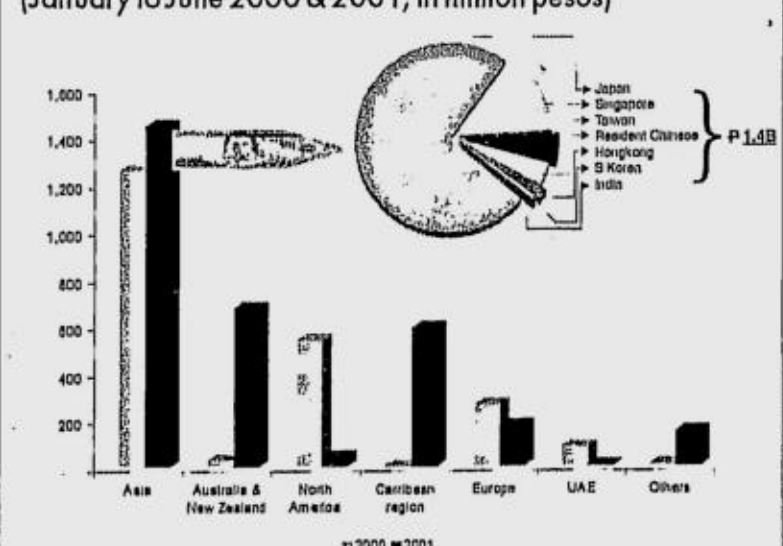
Elena R. Torrijos

INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in our nation's life

Foreign equity investments*

(January to June 2000 & 2001, in million pesos)



* approved by the Board of Investments
Source: Board of Investments

APPROVED foreign equity investments in the Philippines rose 41 percent to P3 billion from January to June this year. Japan topped the list, with P1.1 billion worth of investments.

Marloce D. Tolosa, PDI Research

www.jrs-express.com
Worldwide Delivery

Tel. #8177714 • 8160282 • 8931605 • 6372065 • 2416350 • 8177719 • 6317351 to 56 • Fax: 6317357

E-mail: jrs@mozcom.com

Ramping up Ramcar

RAMCAR Group chair Manuel Agustines is set to meet again with his creditor-banks today in an attempt to hammer out a repayment plan for the estimated P7.9-billion debts that the country's largest battery manufacturer/exporter has unilaterally declared a moratorium on.

Agustines' spiel will go along these lines: The country's flagship battery company can only comfortably service a P1.8-billion debt level if it were to survive the tough times and the reduced tariffs on imports.

The bulk of the debt, P6.1 billion of it, will have to be paid off via property swap (*dacion en pago*).

And of the P1.8 billion, Agustines is proposing that the five-year repayment plan be stretched to 10 years, with a moratorium on principal payments and a reduction in interest charges.

To allay fears raised by some banks that the properties being offered have been overvalued, three Bangko Sentral-shortlisted appraisers will be asked to separately evaluate the lands, the biggest chunks of which are in Bulacan.

According to the pro-Ramcar grapevine, the core businesses, the battery and fast food groups (Mr. Donut, KFC and Fazzoli's), remain intact and competitive; it is just the debt overhang that ballooned starting with the 1997 currency crisis that is hobbling the conglomerate.

Apparently the non-core investments made by Ramcar during the go-go Ramos years have turned into sleepers, instead of money machines as had been originally projected.

It sunk in P300 million into the PAL privatization and another P1.1 billion into the Metrorail project. These twin investments—the Philippine Airlines venture has been practically written off—are still carried in the books and, by feat of accounting ledger-drama, are now "capitalized" at P3.5 billion.

Worse, the PAL and Metrorail investments were funded by bank borrowings, not surplus earnings from the core businesses.

Ramcar is lucky to have vast real estate holdings that it could offer to offset its bank loans. This, of course, is anchored on the assumption that the 19 creditor-banks, who are now bumping their respective Ropoa ceilings, would get past the denial-and-blame stage and swallow the admittedly bitter property pill.

Agitation at ADB

THE JAPANESE-DOMINATED board of the Asian Development Bank will meet on Friday to discuss whether to accept a new proposal from the Philippine government to rebid the now-delayed Leyte-Cebu submarine power cable project.

The Japanese trading/manufacturing giant Sumitomo actually won the May 2000 bidding, submitting a bid P150 million lower than what the Norwegian Alcatel offered to build the crucial facility.

With the assumption of the Macapagal administration, the new Neda Investment Coordinating Committee reviewed the Sumitomo proposal, found technical objections, and subsequently ordered a re-bidding of the \$53.5-million project.

The problem is that the ADB, which is ponying up the funds, had already concurred with the Napocor decision to award the project to Sumitomo.

Sumitomo has also found an unlikely ally in the resident Ombudsman within National Power Corp., who has recommended that the Napocor board headed by Finance Secretary Isidro Camacho, who also happens to be the Neda-ICC chair, could be held liable for "impropriety in the performance of duties" should the delay cause the projected brownouts in Cebu in 2003.

The proposed submarine link will enable about 200 mw of excess geothermal electricity from Leyte to be transported to power-hungry Cebu.

Short takes

• BECAUSE of the tariff rates that price Toyota Echo and Nissan Verita out of its intended markets, COCKTALES/B4

COCKTALES

By Victor C. Agustin



Negosyong Pinoy

SA HALAGANG P2,500 MAY ASENSO!

PROFITABLE & AFFORDABLE BUSINESS FRANCHISE! FREE BUSINESS CONSULTATION DAILY!

RED DRAGON DIMSUM

MEGA e-meals

ESPFRANSOURCE INC. A Fully Registered Company!

TEL NOS. 3732238 • 3722647 • 3710220 • FAX: 4277437

"It's Amazing What Natural Hair Can Do For My Looks!"

You, too, will feel this way when you discover what Svenson International can do for your bald or thinning pate. Rediscover how it feels to look younger by having a full head of hair as real as your own with Cosmetic Transdermal Reconstruction (CTR). A truly revolutionary non-surgical skin hair graft replacement, CTR is undetectable and looks totally convincing even to a conscious probing touch. It allows restored hair to be actually seen growing out of the scalp, making it a physical part of you. It is absolutely safe with no side effects to your scalp.

Call Svenson now for consultation. Find out how you can solve your particular hair loss problems and restore your youthful good looks!

Svenson INTERNATIONAL YOUR CHOICE NOT TO BE BALD

MAKATI Solid Mills Bldg., dela Rosa St. 817-2260 • 817-2194

QUEZON CITY Cedar Executive Bldg., Timog Avenue 372-6631 • 372-6632

BINONDO Federal Tower Bldg., Dasmarinas St. 243-0128 • 244-8913

ALABANG Citibank-Frabelle Bldg., Alabang-Zapote Rd. 842-1389 • 842-4181

CEBU Keppel Centre, Cebu City 032-2340851 • 032-2340853

MON.-FRI. (8 AM - 7 PM) / SATURDAY (8 AM - 3 PM)

Cement firm suspends operations

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

SOUTHEAST Asia Cement Holdings Inc., the local unit of French cement giant La Farge S.A., has temporarily shut down the operations of wholly owned cement manu-

facturing subsidiary Lloyds Richfield Industrial Corp. due to poor market conditions.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, Sencem spokesperson Roland Ngo said the decision to suspend the operations of Lloyds Richfield starting

Nov. 5 was due to the "unpromising future predictions of construction activity in the Philippines."

The suspension will affect 70 employees of Lloyds Richfield, which has an annual grinding capacity of 480,000 tons.

FREE SEMINARS ON NETWORKING AND WEB SITE DESIGN

Call us for the FREE seminar schedules!

Experience the COMPLETE QUALITY EDUCATION that APTECH is known for! Enroll:

Networking Specialist

In 3 days

P 5,900

P 2,990

Web Site Designer

In 3 days

P 6,400

P 2,990

* Price inclusive of training materials. Classes to be held from Nov. 15 to Dec. 15 2001

CALL or VISIT our TRAINING CENTERS NOW for COURSE OUTLINES and RESERVATIONS:

APTECH
COMPUTER EDUCATION

www.aptech-philippines.com

Ortigas Center:

636-4382 to 84

2/F Agustin I Building

Emerald Avenue

Ortigas Center, Pasig City

Makati Center:

813-4516 to 18

3/F Madison Building

904 Arnaiz Avenue

Makati City

PER TRAINING PERMIT NO. 3752 SERIES OF 2001

We change lives ... globally — In the business of creating IT careers ... for you!

Twinhead Efio!3200

Unsurpassed Power
Unmatched Value
Unparalleled Price

Intel Pentium III 1GHz
14.1" XGA TFT Display
128MB RAM max. 512MB
20 GB HDD or higher capacity Windows ME pre-installed
1.44MB diskette drive/24XCD-ROM or 8DVD-ROM Drive
Integrated Ethernet 10/100 & 56K modem
64 Bit 3D/2D advanced graphics engine with 8MB RAM
SB Pro Compatible Sound Card
Serial, Parallel, PS/2, Infrared, USB, Audio In-Out
2.9 kg (Lithium Ion battery included)

With 8xDVD-ROM
89,900

With 24xCD-ROM
79,900

Twinhead
Getting Closer to The New Technology. 637-1724

Affordable Expandable COMMUNICATION

WITH POWERFUL BUILT-IN FEATURES:

- DISA
- SMDR
- Limited Call Duration
- Toll Restriction
- Five Party Conference
- Electronic Station Lock
- Call Forward/Follow-me
- Walking class of service
- From 3 x 8 model up to 512 ports capability

with Voice Mail Integration

Panasonic PABX

* Also available Panasonic Fax Machine in various models

PROSERV COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS
11-A G/F Century Plaza Bldg., 120 Perea St., Legaspi Village, Makati City 1200

CALL: 893-0898
893-1594
893-1597

BUY HER THE GIFT SHE DESERVES FOR THIS YEAR WITH



ASSOCIATES FINANCE INC.

A member of citigroup



CALL AND APPLY TODAY, IT'S SO EASY!

CEBU

G/F OLS Building,

443 Gorordo Ave. cor. Rosal

St. Lahug, Cebu City

Tel. No. (032) 231-5855

The Power of the Lion NOW in your Hands!

AETNA HEALTHCARE, INC.

Aetna Center 104 Herrera St., Legaspi Village, 1229 Makati City

Aetna an INC. company

MEMBER : GONZAGA, ANTONIO CARLOS V.
BIRTH DATE : January 6, 1973
EFFECTIVE : 01-September-2001 EXPIRES : 31-August-2002
ANY ACCREDITED HOSPITAL
PRIVATE UP TO P 1000
ID No. 1-00001-000273-00

Accepting Telephone Enrollment for Individuals & Families

Call 750-9000

or

1-800-1-888-9900

Website: www.aetna.com.ph

DESPITE 370% PROFIT JUMP

PLDT defers plan to buy GMA-7

BY ABIGAIL L. HO

TELECOMMUNICATIONS giant Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) said yesterday it was postponing buying into GMA Network Inc. indefinitely because of debt problems and the difficult business environment.

While announcing a four-fold jump in net profit for the first nine months, PLDT said it had put off a plan to acquire a stake in GMA "as the company focuses on its core business and debt-related matters, given the uncertain economic climate."

Last year PLDT, through its Mediaquest Holdings Inc. unit, agreed to buy a 66.7-percent stake in GMA for about P8.5 billion as part of plans to expand into television, radio, Internet and cable service.

As the telecommunications firm became embroiled in debt problems this year, it revised the offer and sought to buy only a 51-percent stake.

GMA earlier announced that PLDT had offered to cut its planned stock

purchase in the television firm to only 20 percent.

PLDT also reported yesterday that its net profits surged by 370 percent to P2.38 billion in the nine months to September, but warned that a slowing economy would affect future growth.

It said group turnover surged by 21.8 percent to P55.245 billion.

The dominant carrier credited its result to the "continuing turnaround" of mobile telephone unit Smart Communications Inc., which posted a P2.8-billion net profit in the same period compared with a P1.6-billion loss in the nine months to September 2000.

PLDT also cited progress in cost-cutting and investment decisions amid a slowing Philippine economy.

"The market dislocation caused by the Sept. 11 events in the United States resulted in the company's having to reassess the elements of its liability management program," PLDT president and chief executive Manuel Pangilinan said.

PLDT has about \$1.3 billion in obligations maturing in the next three years.

"Overall economic conditions are increasingly showing signs of weakness externally and domestically, making this year and the next a very challenging operating environment," Pangilinan said.

"Our assessment is that the fixed-line business will experience only moderate growth and this growth is likely to be further affected by slowing economic conditions."

"In that light, our efforts at improving revenues must be combined with steps that will put a cap on our capital expenditures, reduce our cash operating expenses, and improve overall operating efficiencies."

Pangilinan said next year's capital spending would be "below P10 billion," down from P11.1 billion in the past 12 months.

"Our fixed-line business will make new investments only in growth areas such as data services."

He said the company's wireless

business should see "continuing growth in subscribers and revenues while improving its profitability by expanding value-added services."

The company said in a separate statement to the stock exchange it was pursuing talks with various lenders as part of its liability management program, but analysts said they wanted hard details.

"The market wants to see the concrete terms of (PLDT's) refinancing arrangements," said Martin Enrile, telecoms analyst at ATR-Kim Eng Securities.

"It seems to be a running concern with investors that unless you have concrete ways of refinancing, especially after the events of Sept. 11, lenders are going to be less open."

PLDT has been forced to put off a planned \$250-million global bond offer after the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States.

The company said the sale of a stake in its wholly owned wireless phone unit Smart Communications Inc. was "underway." With INQUIRER wire reports

Philippine Stock Exchange

STOCKS	(As of Tuesday, November 6, 2001)				VOLUME
	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	6,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	41.5	42.5	41	42	118,700
China Banking Corp.	525	525	500	500	1,320
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	18.75	18.75	18	18	48,100
First E-Bank Corp.	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	11,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	165	166	159	160	115,420
Philippine National Bank	47	48	47	47.5	511,500
Phil. Savings Bank	29	29	29	29	1,000
Security Bank Corp.	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	600
Union Bank Of The Phil.	16.5	16.5	16.5	16.5	3,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Filinvest Fund Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	100,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1310	1325	1310	1325	880
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	30,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1100	1110	1100	1105	5,420

COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	26	26	26	26	600
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.22	0.225	6,040,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	545	545	540	540	11,150
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	40,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.295	0.295	42,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	367.5	370	357.5	357.5	250,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.014	0.014	0.013	0.014	280,730

POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	22	22	21.5	22	15,300
Manila Electric Co. B	32	32	32	32	913,200
Petron Corp.	1.04	1.04	1	1.02	9,219,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	160,000

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	2,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.3	1.3	1.28	1.28	1,164,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	200,000
William, Gothong & Abolito	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	9,000

CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.2	1.2	105,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	67,000

FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.7	215,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	11.25	11.25	11.25	11.25	20,000
La Tondana Distillers Inc.	23.5	23.75	23.25	23.75	106,700
RFM Corp.	2	2	2	2	360,000
San Miguel Corp. A	41.5	41.5	41	41.5	76,900
San Miguel Corp. B	47.5	48	47.5	49	133,200

HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	4.35	4.35	4.2	4.25	11,499,000
Abolito Equity Ventures	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	38,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	60,000
Apo Group Inc.	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	100,000

BALABAC RESOURCES & HLDGS					
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.56	0.56	0.48	0.48	11,080,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	200,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.1	0.1	7,040,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	22	22	22	22	105,900

J.G. Summit Holdings Inc. J					
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.011	0.011	0.01	0.011	2,974,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	800,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.58	0.58	0.56	0.57	6,880,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.19	0.19	0.16	0.17	4,100,000

Music Corp.					
Interphil Labs Inc. B	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	100,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	20,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	100,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	300,000

SPI Technologies Inc.					
Bella Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	150,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	1,000,000
Manila Jockey Club	9	9	9	9	3,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	580,000

BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	26	26	26	26	21,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.-Pref	11	11	11	11	1,200
DMCI Holdings Inc.-Pref.	520	520	520	520	500
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	1,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10	10	10	10	3,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10	10	10	10	1,000
Philweb.Com Inc. -Warrants	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	1,000,000

OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	8	8	8	8	37,000
Far Eastern University	300	300	300	300	260

PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.4	4.4	4.35	4.35	8,819,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.145	0.145	0.14	0.14	1,250,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.245	0.25	0.245	0.25	1,050,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.19	0.195	0.19	0.195	500,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.12	1.12	1.06	1.06	3,732,000
City & Land Developers	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	400,000
Fl-Estate Land Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	10,000
SM Development Corp.	0.82	0.82	0.8	0.8	260,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.5	5.5	5.2	5.3	16,329,000

MINING					
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	1,000
Itoyan-Guyoc Mines A	0.019	0.019	0.018	0.018	85,800,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. A	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	50,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	400,000
Omico Corp.	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	7,000,000
Phillex Mining Corp. A	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.225	10,000

OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.012	0.013	0.012	0.013	6,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	2,000,000
Pacific	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	8,000,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	10,000

SHARES					
Banks & Fin Svc	852,740	852,740	852,740	852,740	56,397,305.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	80,148,640	80,148,640	80,148,640	80,148,640	234,164,740.00
PRO	32,350,000	32,350,000	32,350,000	32,350,000	129,718,850.00
Mining	93,261,000	93,261,000	93,261,000	93,261,000	1,532,820.00
OIL	16,010,000	16,010,000	16,010,000	16,010,000	168,300.00
GRAND TOTALS	232,728,380	232,728,380	232,728,380	232,728,380	422,086,015.00

AVERAGES					
Banks & Fin Svc	388.44	388.44	388.44	388.44	DOWN 1.74
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,408.78	1,408.78	1,408.78	1,408.78	DOWN 9.63
PRO	424.81	424.81	424.81	424.81	DOWN 10.66
Mining	551.17	551.17	551.17	551.17	DOWN 42.28
OIL	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	DOWN 0.02
All Shares Index	657.08	657.08	657.08	657.08	DOWN 0.53
Composite	888.56	888.56	888.56	888.56	DOWN 8.94

NO. OF ADVANCES: 10; NO. OF DECLINES: 43; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 40; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 93 NO. OF TRADES: 1,621					
---	--	--	--	--	--

CURRENCIES

Nov. 6, 2001	Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US\$	Foreign currency in Peso
	United States	Dollar	1.113338	1.000000	51.9100
	Japan	Yen	0.009154	0.008222	0.4268
	United Kingdom	Pound	1.624360	1.459000	75.7367
	Hong Kong	Dollar	0.142919	0.128370	6.6637
	Switzerland	Franc	0.679403	0.610240	31.6776
	Canada	Dollar	0.698938	0.627786	32.5884
	Singapore	Dollar	0.611556	0.549300	28.5142
	Australia	Dollar	0.585433	0.507872	26.3638
	Bahrain	Dinar	2.953308	2.652661	137.6996
	Kuwait	Dinar	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.296890	0.268687	13.8427
	Brunei	Dollar	0.809014	0.547018	28.3956
	Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000102	0.000092	0.0048
	Thailand	Baht	0.024934	0.022399	1.1620
	UAE	Dirham	0.303198	0.272331	14.1367
	Korea	Won	0.000868	0.000778	0.0404
	Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.898200	46.8256
	Germany	Mark	0.511291	0.459242	23.8393
	France	Franc	0.152450	0.138930	7.1080
	Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.407585	21.1577
	Austria	Schilling	0.027873	0.025275	3.3884
	Belgium	Franc	0.024790	0.022268	1.1558
	Italy	Lira	0.000517	0.000464	0.0241
	Finland	Markka	0.186187	0.151088	7.8418
	Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.00448	0.2326
	Spain	Peseta	0.008010	0.005398	0.2802
	Luxembourg	Franc	0.024790	0.022268	1.1558
	Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.140479	59.2023

Cocktales

(From page B3)

the two Japanese car manufacturers have decided to discontinue offering the two peppy minicars after the current

Firm eyes stake in bond exchange

BY ELENA R. TORRIJOS

PHILIPPINE American Life and General Insurance Co., the country's biggest life insurer, plans to invest in the bond exchange of the Bankers Association of the Philippines.

"We are interested. I would like to see Philamlife as one of the investors," Philamlife chair Jose Cuisia said in an interview.

Cuisia added that he was trying to encourage other insurance companies to also consider investing in the planned bond exchange and that it might be possible that the industry, through the Philippine Life Insurance Association, would act as the vehicle that would make the investment.

An industry source said that Insular life was also one of those interested in investing in the bond exchange.

Cuisia said a presentation to PLIA would likely be made after all the information on the proposed

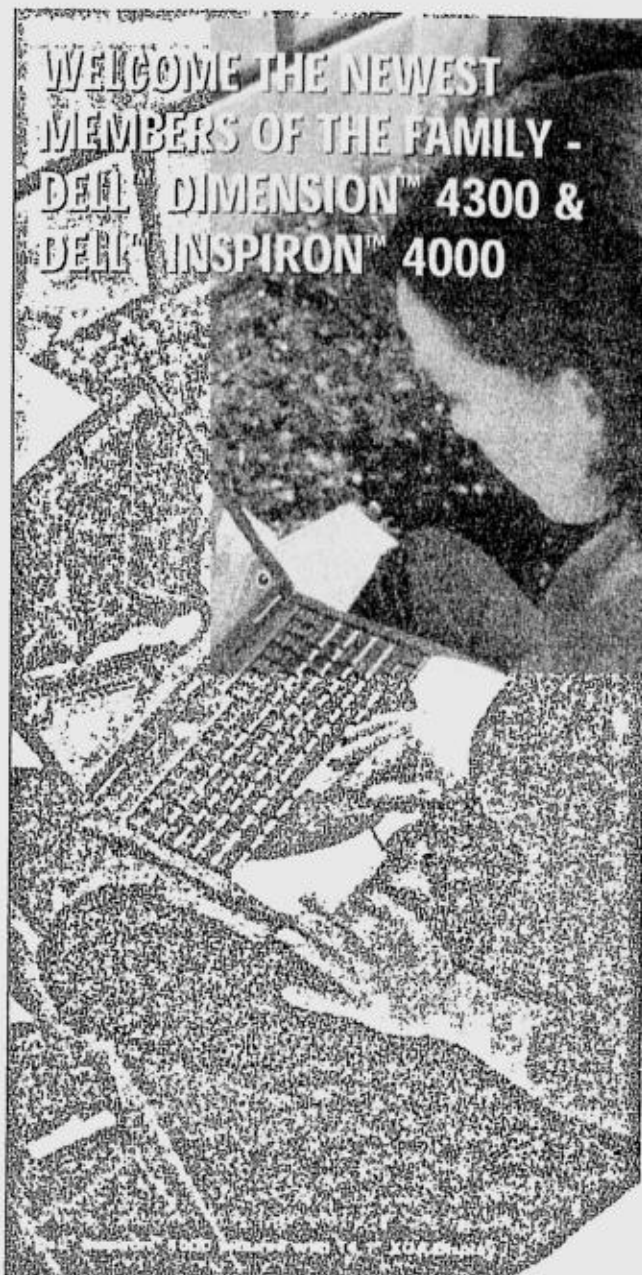
exchange has been gathered.

The amount of Philamlife's investment would be determined by the financial prospects of the exchange and the ownership limits.

Under the Securities Regulation Code, no single industry can own or hold voting rights of more than 20 percent in an exchange while individuals are limited to 5 percent each.

The BAP, which groups the country's more than 34 commercial banks, has already approved a P100-million investment in the planned P500-million bond exchange, which would allow for the trading of government securities, commercial papers and possibly asset-backed securities.

The exchange is expected to facilitate the listing, registration, trading and settlement of the securities and ensure compliance aside from encouraging the professionalization and accreditation of brokers, dealers and market makers.



GREAT VALUE!
UPGRADE TO
A DELL™ DIMENSION™ 4300
DESKTOP 17" COLOUR MONITOR
FROM P65,000
(limited to 5 units only)

DELL™ DIMENSION™ 4300

The Dell™ Dimension™ 4300 Series delivers Intel® Pentium® 4 processor performance suited to advanced business software and graphics-intensive applications.

BLAZING MULTIMEDIA BUNDLE



DELL™ DIMENSION™ 4300
• Intel® Pentium® 4 Processor 1.6GHz
• 17" Colour Monitor
• 128MB SDRAM
• 16MB Video Card
• 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Diskette Drive
• 20GB Hard Drive
• 48X Max CD-ROM Drive
• Harman/Kardon® 19.5 Speakers
• Microsoft® Windows® Millennium Edition

Buy now at
P54,500



DELL™ DIMENSION™ 4300
• Intel® Pentium® 4 Processor 1.6GHz
• 17" Colour Monitor
• 128MB SDRAM
• 32MB Video Card
• 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Diskette Drive
• 20GB Hard Drive
• 16X Max DVD-ROM Drive
• Harman/Kardon® 19.5 Speakers
• Microsoft® Windows® Millennium Edition

Buy now at
P68,888



DELL™ INSPIRON™ 4000

The Dell™ Inspiron™ 4000 lets you work, communicate and travel with ease. Powered by Intel® Pentium® III processor up to 1.0GHz, this stylish and lightweight machine features the very latest technologies to help you work productively no matter where you are.

DELL™ INSPIRON™ 4000
• Intel® Pentium® III Processor 1GHz
• 24X Max CD-ROM Drive
• 128MB SDRAM
• 14.1" XGA TFT Display
• 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Diskette Drive
• 20GB Hard Drive
• Integrated Sounds Speakers Mic
• Lithium Ion Battery
• Internal 56K Fax Modem
• Deluxe Nylon Carry Case
• Microsoft® Windows® Millennium Edition
• Microsoft® Works Suite 2001 - OEM version
• 1-Year Limited Warranty

Buy now at
P82,995



DELL™ INSPIRON™ 4000
• Intel® Pentium® III Processor 1GHz
• 8X CD-RW Drive
• 128MB SDRAM
• 14.1" XGA TFT Display
• 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Diskette Drive
• 20GB Hard Drive
• Integrated Sounds Speakers Mic
• Lithium Ion Battery
• Internal 56K Fax Modem
• Deluxe Nylon Carry Case
• Microsoft® Windows® Millennium Edition
• Microsoft® Works Suite 2001 - OEM version
• 1-Year Limited Warranty

Buy now at
P94,995

Give your business the computing solution you need. Call our local Dell distributor now to speak with an expert about the computing solution that's right for you

Accent Micro Products: Bldg. A SM Megamall, SM North Edsa Branch, SM Bacoor Branch, SM Cebu

PC LIVE: Bldg. A SM Megamall

Silicon Valley: Park Square 1 SM Megamall SM Southmall SM City - North Edsa - SM City - Bacoor - Sta. Lucia East Grandmall Harrison Plaza SM Pampanga Alabang Town Center SM Manila SM City - Cebu and soon SM Davao

Dell™ PCs use genuine Microsoft® Windows® www.microsoft.com/piracy/howtotell



DELL'S NORMAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY AND ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE OR UPON REQUEST. Pricing, specifications and availability subject to change without notice. All efforts will be made to check for errors in typography and photography; however inadvertent errors may occur for which Dell may not be responsible. Dell, the Dell logo, Dimension and Inspiron are registered trademarks or trademarks of Dell Computer Corporation. Microsoft and Windows are either registered trademarks or trademarks of Microsoft Corporation in the United States and/or other countries. Intel, the Intel Inside Logo and Pentium are trademarks or registered trademarks of Intel Corporation or its subsidiaries in the United States and other countries. Other trademarks and trade names may be used in this document to refer to either the entities claiming marks and names or their products. Dell disclaims proprietary interest in the marks and names of others. Copyright 2001 Dell Computer Corporation. All rights reserved.



NEGOSYONG FOOD FRANCHISE!!!
"The Most Successful Franchise Business of the Year"

Flavored Rice 美味飯
BOX
中國風 CHINESE STYLE

Chicharon
PATA-PATA, ULO-ULO
PORKY

Products sold:
Flavored Chicharon
Crispy pata • Crispy ulo
Nutri-licious Drinks

• Pork • Chicken
• Seafood • Beef
• Caldereta • Stir fry
• Adobo • Menufo
w/ pandan flavored
rice & mixed vegetables
Also available,
Special Pancit Guisado

Open to Luzon, Visayas & Mindanao!
P10,000
HIGH PROFIT, EASY TO OPERATE • TRAINING OF PERSONNEL
STRONG MARKETING SUPPORT • FAST RETURN OF INVESTMENT

MEMBER SME's Franchise Association

FRAN.CON, INC.
(FRAMM since 1988)
FRANCHISE SELLING & DEVELOPMENT

21/F Unit 2110 Antel Global Corp. Ctr. J. Vargas Ave.
Cor. Meralco Ave., Ortigas Ctr., Pasig City
☎ 637-2309 • 637-2314 • 637-2316 • 637-2393



AIM Executive Education Programs...
ranked #1 in Quality of
Executive Education Programs in
Asiaweek 2000 and Asia Inc. 1999 surveys.

NEGOTIATIONS COURSE

NOVEMBER 19-23, 2001

How to move through, around, or over successfully... with negotiation skills.

The Negotiations Course is a 5-day intensive program designed to provide all levels of management with a full understanding of the Negotiation Process as a corporate capability and competitive advantage, and to equip them with the skills to apply learnings immediately.

"The Negotiations course was really an eye-opener. It placed the whole negotiation process in perspective with a practical, matter-of-fact approach to getting down to business and to the negotiating table. I have always been shy to negotiate - even in the street markets - but after recognizing that negotiating is just part of a larger communication process, I now feel less inhibited and thus more adept at doing it. There was so much learned in so short a time."

Larry Roger Braden - Negotiation Course Batch August 2001

With AIM's Negotiations Course, you can easily learn negotiations and develop skills for personal improvement and delegation skills. Secure cooperation and commitment at all levels. Share an understanding of everyone's position, so all can reach a mutually beneficial and satisfying decision together.



Professor Ma. Nieves R. Confesor is the Program Director of the Negotiations Course. Most of her experiences locally and internationally have proven successfully her negotiations expertise. She was the Philippine Secretary for Labor and Employment. Professor Confesor has devoted many years of the work in the management of overseas programs for migrant workers, the work in the management of bilateral and multi-lateral agreements, regional relations and shaping of bilateral and multi-lateral Labor Organization (ILO). She also holds participation in the International Labor Organization (ILO). She also holds the distinction of being the first Filipino and Asian woman to serve as Chairperson of the ILO Governing Body from 1994 to 1995. Professor Confesor holds a Masters in Public Policy and Administration from Harvard University and an MBA degree from the Ateneo de Manila University.

Unfolding Spirituality in the Workplace: Leading from Higher Ground

November 25 - 27, 2001
Eugenio Lopez Center, Antipolo City

In the aftermath of the World Trade Center and Pentagon disasters, many companies are experiencing a resurgence of spirituality in the workplace. In the local setting, employees and workers have taken initiatives in integrating spiritual activities into their workday lives - and enlightened employees have only been too willing to encourage such moves.

Program Components

- Sharing of actual stories/testimonies/attempts to unfold and nurture spirituality in their organizations
- Participating in the crafting of an Asian based definition of spirituality in the workplace
- Experiencing the use of Eastern and Western tools for developing spirituality in the workplace

PROCESS

- Face-to-face discussions
- Self-assessment instrumentation
- Structured learning experiences
- Web-based learning

We invite CEOs, enterprise owners, senior business leaders, and HR Directors to participate in this workshop that will enable them to connect with their spiritual intelligence and find new transforming perspectives in their own life and work.

EXCELL's other programs on transformational learning processes include:

- **Self-Mastery: Integrating the Organizational and Personal Self.** February 4 - 6, 2001
- **Whole-Brain Approach to Learning and Life.** March 18 - 20, 2002
- **Value-Added Learning: The Art and Science of Mentoring and Coaching.** June 17 - 19, 2002
- **Managing Adult Learning: Alternative Learning Methodologies.** July 15 - 17, 2002

Name:
Company:
Address:
Position:
Tel. No.:
Fax No.:
E-mail:

Please send me brochures on the following programs: (please check)

- ☐ Negotiations Course, Nov. 19 - 23, 2001
☐ Unfolding Spirituality in the Workplace: Leading from Higher Ground, Nov. 25 - 27, 2001
☐ e-Marketing: Sustaining Competitive Advantages, Nov. 26 - 30, 2001
☐ e-Boot Camp, Dec. 6 - 7, 2001
☐ ExecutiveMBA, starting April 2002
☐ Information Technology: A General Manager's Perspective, Jan. 21 - 25, 2002
☐ Self-Mastery: Integrating the Organizational and Personal Self, Feb. 4 - 6, 2002
☐ Foundation for the New Economy: IT Project Management, Feb. 11 - 15, 2002
☐ Whole-Brain Approach to Learning and Life, March 18 - 20, 2002
☐ e-Governance for Policy Makers, March 11 - 15, 2002
☐ Value-Added Learning: The Art and Science of Mentoring and Coaching, June 17 - 19, 2002
☐ Technology for Government Service Delivery, April 15 - 19, 2002
☐ Managing Adult Learning: Alternative Learning Methodologies, July 15 - 17, 2002

Contact: Ms. Yola Geminio/Ms. Jane Laham - Marketing Group EXCELL
Tel. Nos. 892-8011 to 25 loc. 230, 263, 526 • E-mail: ygemino@datacube.com.ph
Website: <http://www.aim.edu.ph> • Fax reply form below to 892-3260 / 892-3340

PDI 110701

Next WTO head sees global slump in 2002

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia—The next head of the World Trade Organization said Tuesday that he expects a global recession next year.

"I would say for the whole year next year, we should brace ourselves for a period of global recession," said Supachai Panitchpakdi, director general designate of the Geneva-based trade body.

Supachai said that inventories of information technology products are unlikely to be exhausted until the fourth quarter of 2002, when demand for electronic products may begin to spur economic recovery.

Supachai, speaking at a private economic conference, added that most countries have already adjusted downward their economic forecasts for 2002, but the forecasts still include optimism for economic recovery.

"I think we should be cautious of that kind of projection," he said.

Supachai, who is set to become director general of the WTO in 2002, said that there was a lack of financial reforms in Asia and "mountains of nonperforming loans" that would take time to resolve.

He said that governments have taken over large quantities of private sector debt and must now be vigilant about reducing these debts.

Supachai said that during the 1997-1998 Asian financial crisis, Hong Kong and Singapore weren't hit that badly, but now, because of dependence on dollar-based trade, the effects were "more pronounced" for them.

He added that Europe would be unable to contribute significantly to global recovery due to financial constraints, specifically stability pacts that require European Union countries to maintain budget deficits at not more than 3 percent of gross domestic product.

Supachai also said in a conference on Malaysia's economic outlook for 2002 that Asian countries must wake up to China's imminent entry to the World Trade Organization or face losing out on foreign investment.

"This is not to alarm but to wake you up. We'll have to get our act together, deepen our domestic reform, because now the competition is at the front door," Supachai said.

The former Thai deputy prime minister, who will take over as WTO director general from New Zealand's Mike Moore in September next year, said China would be a huge competitive force in the region. Supachai said China enjoyed average annual foreign direct investment (FDI) of \$40 billion, about 80 percent of the

total FDI in Asia.

The 10-country Association of South East Asian Nations, which includes Supachai's Thailand, received about 16 to 17 percent of the FDI.

The other Asean members are Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, and Vietnam.

Supachai said he expected China's FDI to rise to about \$50 billion following its WTO entry.

"Some say the number will rise to \$60 billion to \$80 billion, but I think about \$50 (billion) maybe," he said in his speech.

Supachai said he saw China's share of world trade doubling to 8 to 10 percent in the next five to 10 years' time.

"China will be the predominant player in 2005," he added.

Leaders from Japan, China and Korea moved towards closer economic ties with their Asean partners this week during a meeting in Brunei, but failed to touch on the question of links with a nascent free trade area in the 10-country bloc.

The Asean Free Trade Area (Afta) kicks off in 2002, and members hope to list more goods in a zero to 5 percent tariff band, and make cross-border transportation of goods easier.

AP, Reuters



CHINESE workers install a giant poster advertising a US mobile phone in Beijing. Foreign mobile phone makers are competing fiercely in China, which is expected to have more than 240 million users by 2005, making it the biggest mobile phone market in the world. The Chinese telecommunication market will open up gradually following accession to the World Trade Organization, which will be approved on Nov. 10 at a meeting in Qatar. The Chinese characters read "Mobile."

REUTERS

What is the World Trade Organization?

GENEVA—As the only international body dealing with the rules of trade between nations, the main aim of the World Trade Organization (WTO) is to help trade flow as freely and fairly as possible.

At its heart are a series of agreements negotiated and signed by members that are basically contracts binding governments to keep their trade policies within agreed limits.

Easing trade flows is partly achieved by the removal of obstacles. Through negotiations by its members, the WTO strives for the lowering of trade barriers such as customs duties, import bans and quotas.

It also tries to maintain consistency and transparency of trade rules ensuring companies, governments and individuals around the world know what the rules are, and to provide confidence that there will not be any

sudden policy changes.

The WTO is also increasingly active in the settling of disputes when trade relations lead to a conflict of interests and trade agreements may need to be interpreted. Its rulings are binding.

Based in Geneva, the WTO was born on Jan. 1, 1995 but before its creation the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) had laid down rules for the international trading system since 1948.

However, the GATT was provisional and ad hoc. Although it evolved through eight rounds of trade negotiations, it was eventually replaced by the WTO at the end of the latest and biggest round, known as the Uruguay Round which began in 1986 and lasted until 1994.

Whereas the GATT had dealt mainly with trade in goods, the WTO and its accords cover trade in services such as telecommunications, insurance and financial

services.

In addition, WTO agreements cover rules for trade in inventions, creations and designs known as intellectual property.

As an international organization, the WTO and its agreements are permanent, and the body has a sound legal basis as its members, currently standing at 142, have ratified the WTO agreements.

One of the fundamental principles running through all WTO accords prevents countries discriminating between trading partners—a special favor such as a lower customs duty rate granted to one partner has to apply to all other WTO members.

Despite striving for free trade, the WTO does allow tariffs and, in limited circumstances, other forms of protection, but its rules are designed to secure conditions to make trade open and based on undistorted competition.

The GATT still exists, though it has been updated as the WTO's accord on trade in goods, and deals with sectors including agriculture, textiles, investment and anti-dumping measures (action to counter selling at an unfairly

low price).

During a "round" of trade talks, countries have negotiated commitments and the timeframes in which they will apply, on liberalizing trade in goods, services, intellectual property rights.

The result of the Uruguay Round was 22,500 pages of individual countries' commitments to cut customs duty rates on imports of goods, and to liberalize services.

The WTO is a member-driven organization with all major decisions made by consensus by its membership as a whole, either by ministers who meet every two years or by ambassadors in Geneva.

The top body within the WTO is the ministerial conference, which has to meet at least once every two years. The first time was in Singapore in 1996, the last time was in Seattle, US, in 1999 and the next time will be in Doha, Qatar, from Nov. 9-13.

This meeting may lead to agreement on the contents of a new trade round.

AFP

Japan to ensure growth next year

TOKYO—The Japanese government will find ways to ensure Asia's biggest economy grows in the year to March 2003 for the sake of global economic stability, Finance Minister Masajuro Shiokawa said Tuesday.

"At a time when the world is on the verge of slipping into recession, nobody wants the Japanese economy to head into negative growth (next fiscal year)," he told reporters.

"So I think the government should incorporate in the coming economic and fiscal mid-term outlook some ways to change the current situation to prevent the economy diving into negative territory," Shiokawa said.

Tokyo would focus on issues related to overseas investment, including a massive shift of production by Japanese manufacturers to Southeast Asia and China, in a bid to boost economic activity at home.

"From now on, the measures for overseas investment will be the centerpiece of the government's economic policy," Shiokawa said, adding

ing Tokyo would promote the domestic information-technology industry, as well as the possibility of importing cheaper labor into Japan.

But there were no plans for a second fiscal stimulus package to support the nation as it slips into its fourth recession in a decade.

"I hope the present supplementary budget will be enacted as soon as possible," the minister said.

The government will issue a revised growth forecast when it submits plans for a limited supplementary budget to parliament later this week.

Projected gross domestic product (GDP) for the year to March 2002 would likely be revised down sharply from the current projection of 1.7 percent economic expansion.

The Yomiuri newspaper reported Tuesday that Tokyo would slash its official forecast to a 0.9-percent fall for the year due to weak demand for technology products and falling investment after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

AFP

Cut Signs ... Make Money



Roland handles media from just 8.5" to 54" wide.

So, let's cut a deal

Here's the deal :

1. Trade-in your old vinyl cutter – any brand, any size, any age, any condition working or not – on a Roland machine. Three different Series and no less than 7 models to choose from. Call now for your trade-in value.*
2. No trade-in? Call now to learn how much you can save on any Roland vinyl cutter during this special onetime promo.
3. Trade-in or straight purchase, either way get really fast ROI. For example, get back your full investment when you make just six 4ft. x 8ft. signs on the Roland CX-24. And, that's without the trade-in or special pricing available right now.

This is a great opportunity to *expand* your sign making business. It's also good reason to consider starting a brand new sign making shop.

Why Roland vinyl cutters make money:

- Advanced curve-smoothing function – cuts circles and curves faster with higher precision.
- Replot function – shortens setup time on multiple copies
- Built-in 1MB buffer – shortens computer time
- Reliable results – test-cut function checks down force before cutting so you get exactly the cut you want.
- Easy to use – jog dial and LCD display.
- Versatile software – Windows® 98/95, NT and 2000 drivers for cutting from your favorite programs like Corel Draw and Adobe Illustrator.
- Proven No. 1 – more Roland cutters in use worldwide (and in RP) than any other brand.

Exclusively distributed by

Tgraf

#455 Gen. Bantista St.
San Juan 1500, M.M.
Tel: 723-0601 Loc. 218/337
Fax: 723-7951
url: tgraf.com.ph
e-mail: inquire@tgraf.com.ph

Roland

No. 1 Choice of Signmakers around the World
url: rolanddga.com

*Trade-in offer good on 46" to 54" models only.

European Central Bank may cut rates to spur zone's growth

FRANKFURT—With the fog hanging thick over the global economy, the world's financial markets are pinning their hopes on the European Central Bank to steer the euro zone economy away from the rocks of recession by cutting its key rates at a meeting this week.

Out of 34 economists polled by AFP and its financial news subsidiary AFX, all but one predicted a cut in euro-zone interest rates when the ECB holds its regular fortnightly policy-setting session on Thursday.

The heat is on the guardian of the euro to give the region's ailing economy a much needed shot in the arm.

In contrast to the more pro-active United States Federal Reserve which has slashed borrowing costs by four full percentage points so far this year in order to jolt the world's powerhouse economy back to life, the ECB has pared back its rate by just one percentage point, despite the dark clouds hanging heavy over the 12 countries which share the single currency.

The ECB refused to cut rates at its last meeting two weeks ago, because there were not sufficient arguments to justify such a move, said governing council member and Bundesbank chief Ernst Welteke at the time.

Economists suggested that the bank had been waiting for further evidence that inflation in the euro area was slowing.

Just such evidence emerged Monday when Eurostat in Brussels published data, which showed that area-wide inflation slowed to 2.4 percent on a 12-month basis in October from 2.5 percent in September.

That brings the rate another step closer to the key level of 2.0 percent, which the ECB regards as the maximum tolerable level of inflation in the region.

Also scheduled for release some time this week was a raft of economic data—including unemployment, manufacturing orders and industrial output data for Germany, consumer confidence figures for France, as well as further price data and business and consumer confidence data for the entire euro zone.

And since none of these figures were expected to point to a brightening of growth prospects in the region any time soon, they would underline the need for early action, economists said.

Thus, the scene appears set for the next round of monetary easing in Europe as early as this week.

But given the ECB's previous unpredictability in its rate decisions, a cut on Thursday was far from a done deal, said Merrill Lynch economist Sharda Datta.

"It's always dangerous to assume with the ECB that a rate cut is in the bag," the economist said.

Muddying the waters were recent calls by European politicians for some sort of action on the part of the ECB.

AFP

Uncertainty marks the rollout of next-generation cell phones

SAN JOSE, California—Stories of frantic efforts to connect to friends and loved ones through cell phones on Sept. 11 prompted a surge in demand for wireless devices.

The accounts also hinted at the potential value of next-generation networks that offer more reliable connections, greater call capacity, advanced messaging and fast, always-on Internet access.

But the boost is only temporary for an industry clobbered by the technology slowdown. Analysts say the multibillion-dollar network upgrades necessary for a great wireless leap forward are unlikely for many months if not years in the current economic climate.

Last month, Openwave Systems Inc., the leading maker of mobile Internet software and a company widely viewed as a wireless industry barometer, announced third-quarter losses of 3 cents a share and cut at least 300 jobs, or 13 percent of its workforce.

Executives of the company, which sells to nearly all US wireless carriers, said more than terrorism was to blame.

cial officer.

That's business-speak for wireless near-paralysis.

The pace of mobile technology has always been evolutionary, beginning with the first generation of brick-like handsets and car phones. By the mid-1990s, carriers began introducing second-generation digital networks with smaller handsets and more reliable service.

But US networks have fallen behind those abroad, particularly in Japan, where people can surf the Internet and exchange text messages via cell phone nearly as easily as a home computer user in the United States.

The reasons are technical, cultural and financial. Personal computers are not as common in Japanese homes as they are in the United States. Many in Japan first discovered the possibilities of the Internet from the tiny displays of their cell phones, even with the snail-like transmission rates of second-generation networks.

At the same time, basic functions such as text messaging took off and customers did not mind paying for the extra features. In the United States, instant messaging over personal computers is free and the service over cellular phones is nowhere near as popular.

AP

WALL STREET HOPES FOR A RALLY

Fed set to fire off 10th interest rate cut

NEW YORK—Alan Greenspan and Co. are set to fire off another interest-rate cut on Tuesday, and Wall Street is betting the 10th reduction in a row will help boost stocks or at least put a floor under the market.

"That's not a magic wand that's going to turn everything around," said Jay Mueller, economist and portfolio manager at Strong Capital Management Inc., which manages \$42 billion. "It does a little bit of good at the margin, but the forces driving the economy down right now are very powerful; they are five years or more in the making and this thing doesn't turn on a dime."

The market has not rallied much after the latest bout of rate cuts by the US Federal Reserve because the economy is weak due to overcapacity, not because interest rates are too high. Lower rates alone can't solve the economic weaknesses, but have minimized the damage to stocks from bleak corporate profit reports or weak economic data, pundits said.

Stock market investors traditionally welcome aggressive monetary easing by the US central bank. This time, some believe rate cuts—in conjunction with fiscal stimulus like higher government spending or lower taxes—could do the trick of turning the economy and the market around in coming months.

"People say the Fed rate cuts are not effective. I would hate to think what the economy would look like if we still were at 6.50 percent short rates," said Mueller. "The stock market is trying to look through the valley to the mountain on the other side and the eventual recovery."

Stocks rose on Monday, as the Street geared up for the Fed meeting. But major market indexes are still, despite rallying from three-year lows in late September, way below levels where they were before the Fed began its aggressive monetary easing at the start of 2001. The broad market gauge, the Standard & Poor's 500, is down 16.50 percent so far this year.

Greenspan, chair of the Federal Reserve, and the members of the policy-making Federal Open Market Committee will meet on Tuesday, with the announcement of their decision on interest rates expected around 1915 GMT.

10th cut the charm?

The last rate cut was on Oct. 2 when the Fed cut its benchmark for short-term rates throughout the nation down to 2.5 percent, its lowest level since 1962. At the time, the Fed said it was ready to slash rates further to help stave off the growing threat of recession.

The only other time there were 10 or more cuts in the fed funds rate was in the early 1990s, when the central bank cut rates a total of 24 times between June 1989 and September 1992—whacking the benchmark rate for overnight bank lending down to 3.0 percent from 9.80 percent, a total of 680 basis points—said Sam Burns, equity research analyst at market research firm Ned Davis Research Group.

Reuters

WHY WEBSITES DON'T WORK

If you are thinking about an Internet site or currently have one, Worldsites invites you to attend this Free Seminar.



Mr. Nigel Mayne
Worldsites President

Join Internet visionary Mr. Nigel Mayne, President of Worldsites, the World's largest Internet Consultancy, for this powerful, entertaining and informative 90 minute session. Discover:

- The truth behind the statement "Why Most Websites Don't Work"
- The ABC's of Internet success
- How your Business can profit from the Internet
- How managed sites are improving Internet results
- Key Internet marketing secrets

November 8, 2001/Thursday
Makati Shangri-La Hotel • 3:00 p.m.

DON'T MISS THIS EVENT - CALL TO RESERVE YOUR FREE SEAT NOW!
LIMITED SEATS AVAILABLE.

For reservations and inquiries, call or e-mail any one of the following:

Fanny Dychiao
637.0000 • 0917.8980585
fpdychiao@worldsites.net

Jimmy Guerrero
724.6197 • 0917.5386450
jvguerrero@worldsites.net

PopC Jaranilla
834.8705 • 0917.6191629
mpjaranilla@worldsites.net

Stephen Lim
330.6629 • 0917.5280158
srlim@worldsites.net

Edlynn Frondoso-Ng
533.5360 to 61 • 0917.9038822
efng@worldsites.net

FREE SEMINAR

Worldsites has over 700 locations in 87 countries to serve you - A proud Canadian company
www.worldsites.net



IMF to work quickly on new reform package for Indonesia

JAKARTA—The International Monetary Fund said on Tuesday it would work as quickly as possible to sign a new pact on economic reforms with Indonesia over the next two weeks, paving the way for fresh loans.

Top Fund officials have begun arriving in Jakarta for two weeks of talks due to officially start on Friday after an annual summit of international donors and creditors grouped under the Consultative Group on Indonesia (CGI).

"We'll work on the document for completion of this review over the next couple of weeks and see what progress we

can make and assess the situation at a later date along with the government," David Nellor, IMF senior resident representative in Jakarta, told Reuters.

"We'll make every effort to complete it as soon as possible," he added.

The pact, or letter of intent, is tied to a \$5-billion program the IMF signed with Jakarta in January last year.

The review team, led by Asia-Pacific assistant director Daniel Citrin, comes amid fresh troubles for Indonesia's ailing economy.

The rupiah hit a more than four-month

low of 11,000 per dollar early on Tuesday which dealers said reflected growing concern over President Megawati Sukarnoputri's government's pace at pushing ahead with key economic reforms.

But Nellor said the Fund had been impressed with Jakarta's progress on some fronts since the previous review two months ago.

"There have been bright spots since the last review—the government has agreed with parliament on the 2002 budget which looks like it has struck the right balance between fiscal consolidation and supporting economic activity."

Reuters

Japan's big electronics firms turn to alliances

TOKYO—Growing competition from Asian rivals, sinking semiconductor prices and a global electronics slump that is worsening after the terrorist attacks are sending the top names in Japanese electronics crashing into embarrassingly deep losses.

Even the companies' executives acknowledge this nation's once mighty electronics sector has dived into a crisis more serious than ever before. All major electronics companies, except for Sony Corp., are forecasting staggering losses for the fiscal year ending in March.

The Japanese are still concerned with the same industriousness, attention to detail and lower costs in mass production that had made quality synonymous with "Made in Japan" for years.

But these days, the concern is that those traits are now more descriptive of China, South Korea and the rest of Asia.

After decades of building success on "mono zukuri"—a phrase that simply means "making things"—this country's manufacturers are discovering they have failed to respond quickly enough to global competition to come up with the ideas, technologies and services that allow them to one-up their rivals.

And the worldwide slowdown has come just at the wrong time. Japanese companies have long relied on exports to drive profits.

No one is suggesting that these companies are about to collapse or get bought out—at least, not yet.

Matsushita Electric Industrial Co. managing director Yukio Shohoku said he was seriously worried his company was becoming an easy target for a takeover.

"The threat is not a theory. It is a possibility, although not a probability," he said.

As companies such as Matsushita struggle to ride out tough times through cost-cutting, alliances are on the rise—agreements that bring together rivals in limited areas but stop short of full-fledged partnerships.

"We can do it alone, but can we make it in time?" Shohoku said. "We can buy time by alliances. Timing is very important."

In October, Matsushita set up a joint venture with Toshiba Corp. to unify their liquid-crystal display businesses.

Earlier this year, Matsushita, which makes the Panasonic brand, tied up with NEC Corp. to share technologies in next-generation cell phones. AP

SingTel H1 net seen off

SINGAPORE—Singapore Telecommunications Ltd.'s first-half net profit could fall as much as 18 percent but its strong balance sheet and regional presence keep investors clinging onto its stock.

"It's such a big animal that people tend to hold it more for weighting purposes," said Sheree Tan, a fund manager of Morley Asset Management. "At the end of the day, they have to be able to deliver results from their acquisition strategy."

SingTel shares were steady at S\$1.68 by the midday break on Tuesday. In the past six months, they have outperformed the broader market by almost 20 percent but lost about 7 percent of their value.

Asia's sixth-largest telecoms group went on a buying spree this year, paying US\$9 billion for Australia's Cable

& Wireless Optus in September and \$602 million for a 22.3-percent stake in Indonesia's Telkom last month.

The acquisitions expand its reach to six countries in the region, including India, Thailand and the Philippines, with a customer base of more than 15 million people.

Cheong Kum Hong, chief investment officer at Commerzbank Asset Management, said his focus was on SingTel folding in Optus.

"The only thing is really how they can integrate Optus. If they can do that, it will be great," said Cheong, who keeps a neutral weighting on SingTel stock.

SingTel—69-percent owned by the Singapore government—is due to announce its interim results during the midday break on Thursday at around 0530 GMT.

Reuters

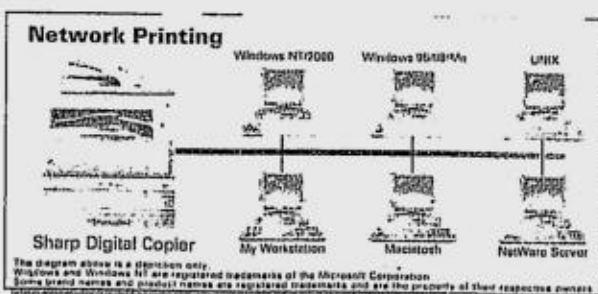


What Sharp Copiers can give you.

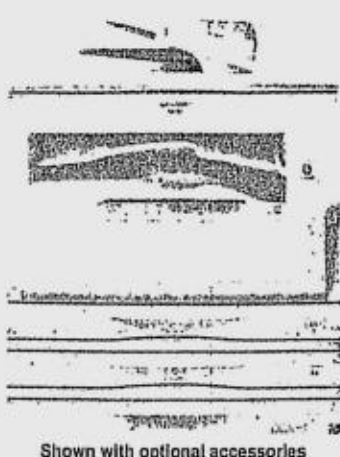
Sharp means Control.

The way the world does business changes everyday. That's why your office must have the right productivity tools to stay ahead. Sharp Digital Copiers are networkable, which means you get full workload control via the network, whether its running on Windows, Mac O/S, UNIX, or Novell Netware. Make fast, clear copies without leaving your desk. Edit, sort, store, and print images with ease even in large volumes. The Shifter function allows multiple user access without mixing up your documents. Get in full control. Shift to Sharp Digital now.

The Sharp Digital AR-161/205 Copier / Printer



- 600 dpi quality printing
- Back to back copying/printing (AR-205)
- 20 cpm / 20 ppm (AR-205)
- Electronic Sorting
- HP PCL6 Emulation
- Shifter Function



Shown with optional accessories

SHARP
IMAGER
The Only Digital Copier You Need.

DATAKOM SYSTEMS CORP.
MITSU MACHINE PHLS., INC.
SALES • SERVICE NATIONWIDE

! THE SOLE SOURCE OF AUTHORIZED GENUINE SHARP CONSUMABLES AND PARTS. IF IT'S NOT FROM US, IT MUST BE FAKE. !

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT OR CALL:
Sharp Copying Machine Center
65 Sun. G. Poyat Ave., Makati City
Tels. 887-45-40; 844-42-42; 812-74-51
Fax: 843-4273
Web Site: http://www.sharpcopier.com.ph
E-mail: info@sharpcopier.com.ph

EXCLUSIVE PROVINCIAL DEALERS:
DAGUPAN
CHIMES ENTERPRISES
Tels. 525-6700, 523-0074
Branches:
• San Fernando La Union
Tel. 888 5045
• Baguio
Tel. 444-9710
• Tuguegarao
Tels. 844-2277, 845-0164
• Bala, Bataan
Tels. 810-701-0882
• C.A. COPY CENTER
Tels. 373-3760 to 60; 710-4401
• Bulacan
Tels. 601-1090
• San Pablo
Tels. 756-0301
• Tarlac
Tels. 045-902-4200

CALAPAN, OR. MINDORO
DIGI COMPUTER LAND Tel. 208-5187
SAN JOSE, OCC. MINDORO
MINDO ONE COMPUTER
Tels. 401-4314, 401-1030
CAVITE
ZEALCOM ENTERPRISES
Main. Tels. 430-2340, 430-0942
Branches:
• Bacor Tels. 417-4097, 417-4843
• Lemery, Balangas Tel. 411-2688
PALAWAN
DINCO ENTERPRISES
Tels. 433-4750, 433-4553, 433-7205
CAGAYAN DE ORO
DINCO ENTERPRISES
Tels. 712-763, 721-594
• Buluan Tels. 225-6590
• Surigao Tel. 820-8704

NAGA
SOFI (MEO) COMPUTER
Tels. 911-2917, 473-2833
LEGAZPI
ALL ELECTRONICS ENT.
Tels. 480-8011, 480-5512 & 15
BACOLOD
NEGROS SATURN MARKETING
Tels. 433-0101, 433-0108, 434-5008
ILOILO
COMPUTRON BUS SYSTEMS
Tels. 339-0818, 339-0032
DUMAGUETE
DIE WAXAN ELECTRONICS
Tels. 226-1035, 422-7698
CEBU
TRISALES BUS SYSTEMS
Tels. 253-0707, 254-7275
Branches:
• Cebu Tels. 561-3077
• Tagbilaran Tel. 235-4352

TACLOBAN
ELLCTRO COMPUTER DATA SYSTEMS
Tels. 328-5904, 328-3004
Davao
DAVAO IMPORT DISTRIBUTORS, INC.
Tels. 222-2000 to 05, 221-5312
Branches:
• Digos Tel. 553-2483
• Tagbilaran Tel. 217-3341
• Kuluapawan Tel. 208-1300
• San Francisco Tel. 552-8336
• San Francisco Tel. 539-0235
COTABATO
CONE CO SALES Tel. 213-458
ZAMBOANGA
GOI DEN BELL COMMERCIAL
Tels. 991-1005 to 09, 991-1130
CZAMIZ
KWINLINK
Tels. 521-1888 to 89

SHARP CORPORATION OSAKA, JAPAN

FPDSavills
INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY CONSULTANTS

WE NEED YOUR WAREHOUSE!

FPDSavills has been appointed by a major multinational company and we are in need of warehouse properties for lease in Sucat/NAIA Road, Parañaque; EDSA Balintawak/ San Francisco del Monte/ West Triangle, Quezon City; Quiapo/ Paco/ Pandacan/ Malate/ Intramuros, Manila.

Preferably the properties range from 800.00 sq.m. up to 1,500 sq.m. in a fairly accessible area.

Should you have suitable premises please submit the following documents:

- Transfer Certificate Title
- Indicative rates
- Floor Plan
- Vicinity Map
- Lot Plan
- Structural Plan

Please call:

Argy Noblejas
Mobile: (0918) 914 3309
mobnoblejas@fpdsavills.com.ph

Paul Ryan Isip
Mobile: (0918) 912 1307
prian@fpdsavills.com.ph

Erwin de Jesus
Mobile: (0918) 909 2304
edojesus@fpdsavills.com.ph

37/F Philamlife Tower, 8767 Paseo de Roxas Makati City

www.fpdsvills.com

Tel: (02) 885 0580
Fax: (02) 885 0578

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

The Widest Reaching Classifieds

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION
Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
8972535 (Direct) 8978808 (Trunk) Fax 8974808
G/F ATRIUM BLDG., MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
8114361 8114370 8114012 Fax 8925578
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
912 9008 11 Fax 912 9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
8330219 8330208 Fax 8330220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
5273342 5280183 Fax 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
8506465 Fax 8506466
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

RATES
P230 per column centimeter P65 per line
(All prices exclusive of B-VAT)

DEADLINES
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Mondays to Saturdays Sundays
12:00 noon 12:00 noon
Day before publication every Thursday

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

MEDICAL

PHYSICIAN/SURGEON

Cosmetic Surgery
50% Discount
Nose Breast Facelift
Hair Transplant Lipo
Eyebag/Slit Ear Repair
Tel. 8 723-2223 • 724-8963
Hosp. MWF 10am-4pm 533-0605

RAPID TX VD-STD
SCARS Ex SWEAT ALLERGIES
15 Annapolis, Greenhills
Call 7276124 to 25 9am-7pm

VOSTD Matrino Bldg.
2178 P. Tamo 8175071

PERSONAL

CONSTRUCTION/DESIGN

Expert repairs of basket-
ball firs local & imported
materials free estimate
guaranteed professional
services. Call 9222455;
9217505; 9216287 URBANO

Warehouse Frames 046-8521399

COSMETOLOGY

FACIAL SKINCARE

Training/Workshop
8956031 L2011 OR 8971832

MASSAGE

ASK ROCKY MALE 24 HRS
SERVICES 8511883 100% HDOME

Aldrin•Masseur•704-8757

COLLEGE BOYS 8151168

F-Escorts 127705080

H-H-MS Male 7314018

Male 16 Palanan 7320659

MASSAGE FRED 8513462

•NewMabuhay Msg4215996

Pretty European Girl 0919252922

UNWIND M/F Mkt 7520437

VIP-MF-8312373 09193591771

REFLEXOLOGY

BANAWA SPA M&F 7411426

CHIRO CARLA 716-4898

D'Millennium M/F T9347633

Edgar Reflex 7503640 HHS

Edward Reflex 7289285

TUTORIAL LESSONS

LA LUZ 5268216/70

MISCELLANEOUS

Attention

Professionals and Skilled
Workers Immigrate to Canada
now FREE qualification assess-
ment send resume via email
sara@csi.com.ph for more de-
tails Pls Call 638-6707

Photo/Video 0919-2238754

HOUSEHOLD

HOUSEHOLD JOBS

BEST MAIDS 912-4701/9124706

COOK Maid Yaya Driver 8743305

Direct-Maid-Yaya-Cook 7570579

Good Maid Yaya Boy 7572089

Good-Maid-Yaya-Boy 7570579

Help Agency 5328376/5321947

Home Maid Specialist

Call Tel. 660-4589

International Cook 8735271/8722792

MAIDS BOY DRIVER 8533504/8533505

Maids Boy Driver128513/114693

M A I D S w / N B I

Open 24hrs 8720241

MAIDS•2594067•2590869

NURSE•Midwife•Oldsitter•Yaya

8720265•7722353•8429807

PACIFIC MAIDS ETC

SINCE 1948 7:312672

PROVINCIAL ALL AROUND

MAIDS

Call: Joy 8712372-8722792

Provi MAID YAYA COOK LABA BOY

DRIVER 873-5062•871-2370

We have maids mwite PT

hmcare 4128513;3664375

LIPAT BAHAY

L-BAHAY 9206784 4540520

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

HOUSEHOLD

LIPAT BAHAY

•CHEAP LBAHAY 9260424•

L-BAHAY 8383742/5447599

LBAHAY 7113540

L-BAHAY 712-16-92

LIPAT CHEAP 5220956

Lipat Bahay Tel. 824-1227

•LIPAT•731-6833

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMM/RESID

MARIKINA

450m² Ind'l Valley Ideal

Pre-School 634-1212

A.Tuazon Ave. 346m² 150mts.

Ir. Robinsons 0917-3955738

HOUSE & LOT

LAS PINAS

Alg Alabang - Zapote Rd

LA133 FA157 3BR 2TB

2.9M Tel 9126273;9135092

MAKATI

10 MINS. FRM AYALA

BNewhse Zobel Roxas Mktl

4sty/3BR/3TB/grg e

P3.050M up 8903461 loc 34

Holiday Inn Eaton Makati

Good Income • 928-1469

MARIKINA

1511m² Iplil St., w/Pool

Near S-Mall 6M 634-1212

Grind bnew 3br 2M 9487112

PASIG

★ NO Downpayment★

PASIG H/L -- Greenwood &

Mercedes -- Call 6438927

QUEZON CITY

Acropolis 3BR w/Pool @

P15M • 633-7601 to 03

Apo St SMH L-280 V-lot 928-1469

Baler St L-3000 w/Hse 928-1469

Brand New Town-Houses

Marisa 0919-8707359 • (047) 237-1459

Congressional Ave L-479m²

Comm'l Lot Call 928-1469

D Tuazon SMH QC L-411m²

2Sty Call 928-1469

Edsa Alng H-way L-3000

V-lot Call 928-1469

LOYOLA GRAND VILLAS

2sty 5rms 6TB 650m²LA

Vacant lot w/ view avble

929-1832 • 426-5650

Malaya St cor. Banawa7314018

Mindanao Ave. Comm'l Lot

L785 VLot • 928-1469

New Mia Rollin Hill L-258

2Sty 4br 2 Car 928-1469

OWNER LEAVING fully furn

nr. SM North T-893-5697

Proj. 6 QC Townhouse

P2.9M L100m² • 928-1469

Robinson Subd. Bside Mail

Novaliches 9612353 Johnny

Rushl big spacious rooms

accessble 267m² 7BR8 &

3TB8 Proj3 P3M 9137916

Samat St SMH QC L-600m²

5Sty w/Bldg / Wise Call 928-1469

SFDM QC L-624 2Sty

Warehouse Call 928-1469

VV2 490sqm 4BR 2Storery

P23M • 633-7601 to 03

VV6 910sqm 6BR w/Pool

P32M • 633-7601 to 03

RIZAL

Calinta Country Homes P1.85M

30% DP 30 Yrs Call 656-6491

Nr Antipolo Church P1.8

LA-346 FA-150 634-1212

SAN JUAN

GREENHILLS WEST

FRONTING XAVIER HS. 2STY

CONC. HSE 6BR/7TB W/MAIDS

RM. DRIVERS RM OCG BUSINESS

ALLOWED T. 722-1832

PROVINCIAL

ROSALIA VILLAGE, BACOR

5 yrs-pay, nr SM, 242-1521

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

PROVINCIAL

San Jose VIII Sta Rosa Laguna

L-151 or 174 Call 928-1469

Tagaytay Candonwood Club

Shares Call 928-1469

Tagaytay L-286m² 2Sty 3br

3th 1 car Call 928-1469

LOT

PASIG

Valle Verde IV 869m²

Call 634-1212

QUEZON CITY

Baesa QC L-932 4 Ind. Lot

Call 928-1469

Del Monte L-800m² V-Lot

Call 928-1469

Fairview QC L-1000m² V-

Lot Call 928-1469

Marcos Hiway Comm'l LOT

L-317 V-Lot 928-1469

New Mia Rollin Hills L-725

V-lot Cor. Call 928-1469

Rollin Hills V-Lot L-725

Corner Lot Call 928-1469

SFDM, Q.C. Lincoln St.

L714 VLot • 928-1469

PROVINCIAL

ATTENTION

Manufacturers & Investors

Cavite Light Industrial Park

Ready for Construction

Php.1,600/m². Along

Maguyam road, Carmona, Cavite

T 6360111 / 6358108-Merle

Tagaytay

5802sqm w/View

P2000/sqm • 633-7601 - 03

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

308m² Visaya Ave 4 Lease 9281469

OTHER AREAS

VILLA FELIZA HOMES

Alabang Zapote Rd.,

Las Piñas City

OPEN HOUSE

on Sunday, Nov. 11

Initial DP: P 25,000

COASTAL WOODS VILLAGE

Ligas, Bacoor, Cavite

Initial DP: P 25,000

CASIMIRO TOWNHOMES

Habay, Bacoor, Cavite

Initial DP: P 15,000

WESTVILLE HOMES

Ligas, Bacoor, Cavite

Initial DP: P 15,000

2/F Princess Bldg. Esteban St.

Logospx Village, Makati City

815-2144 810-7183

776-4604 810-8019

810-7297 829-5081

871-8318 872-7603

Welcome Brokers & Agents

write to

forterealty@skynet.net

FOR LEASE

2472 Marikina 4Lease 928-1469

578 V-lot Mindanao Ave 4Lease 9281469

717 V-lot Cubao QC 928-1469

801 Quilino H-way 4Lease 928-1469

930m² Mindnao Ave 4Lease 9281469

Visayas Ave. 0917-3955738

ROOM & BOARD

Male Fur 2perRm 8973770

Room 4 Rent Calinta Grnpark Nr.

Sta Lucia Mall Call 656-6491

Studio Semi/Fully Furn.

Malate Near DLSU 523-5465

BUSINESS RENTAL

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION

Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
 ☎ 8972535 (Direct) ☎ 8978808 (Toll-free) ☎ 8974808
 ☎ 8974808 (Fax)
 G/F ATRIUM BLDG., MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
 ☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 ☎ 8925578
 ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
 ☎ 912-9008-11 ☎ 912-9011
 SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
 ☎ 6350219 ☎ 6372008 ☎ 6350220
 G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
 ☎ 5273342 ☎ 5280183 ☎ 5276357 ☎ 5280213
 ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
 ☎ 8506465 ☎ 8506465
 e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

OBITUARIES

RATE
 P230 per column centimeter
 (All prices exclusive of B-VAT)

DEADLINE
 for reservations / cancellations / corrections
 Monday to Sunday
 12:00 noon
 Day before publication

VIVENCIO HUERTA TINIO

January 13, 1922 - November 5, 2001

His bereaved wife **Lourdes Hidalgo Tinio**; children **David & Ting** and **Lisa & Francisco**; brother **Martin**; grandchildren **Pia & Paco**; **Vincent**, **Manuel**, **Alfonso**, **Miguel**, **Mark & Aurora**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Capilla de la Virgen, Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Funeral Mass will be on Thursday, November 8, 2001 at 10:00 AM.

CORDELL U. DEL ROSARIO

Senior Vice President
National Power Corporation

*Died in the Grace of our Lord on October 31, 2001
at the age of 54.*

His dearest wife **Maria Rita**; children **Laura Carmela**, **Alvaro Conrado**, and **Cedrick**; parents **Conrado** and **Laura**; sisters **Lota** and **Cherry**, other relatives and friends, and his NAPOCOR Family request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Damar Village Chapel, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Thursday, November 8, 2001 at La Loma Cemetery, Caloocan City immediately following the 8:00 A.M. Mass at the Damar Village Chapel.

In Loving Memory

on the 1st Death Anniversary of

Ronaldo Noble Dypiangco

July 17, 1935 - November 8, 2000

Masses will be offered on November 8, 2001
at the following churches:

Sto. Domingo Church	6:30 a.m. &
Quezon City	6:00 p.m.
San Isidro Labrador Church	
Antipolo, Rizal	6:00 a.m.
Diocese of Antipolo	
Antipolo City	6:00 a.m.
Our Lady of Lourdes Church	
Quezon City	6:30 a.m.
Queen of the Valley Church	
West Covina, CA., U.S.A.	12:00 nn
Holy Family Church	
Kapitolyo, Pasig	6:00 p.m.
St. Francis Church	
Mandaluyong City	6:00 p.m.

His loving wife **Teresita** and children **Mon & Liza**, and **Therese** request relatives, friends and pious readers to include him in their prayers.

Col. NARCISO ALIÑO PECACHE (Ret.)

October 29, 1920 - November 5, 2001

His loving wife **Priscilla V. Santos**; and bereaved children **Noemi & Wilfredo C. Diansuy**, **Myrna & Ponciano S. Buenaventura**, **Cecilia & Roberto Q. Estloko**, **Emma & Gerardo T. Layug**, **Napoleon & Ma. Adora P. Tecson**, **Nerissa**, **Nelson & Elvira C. Luciano**; brothers and sisters **Nieves (†)**, **Gregoria**, **Francisca**, **Felipe (†)**, **Guillermo**, and **Pio Al**; grandchildren **Michael**, **Meryl**, **Patrick**, **Noreen**, **Arjay**, **Nonette**, **Margaret**, **Gemma Lynne**, **Rocelle**, **Robby**, **Gerardnellerie**, **Randall**, **Nellie**, **Mark & Geraldine** request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Interment will be on Thursday, November 8, 2001 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the St. Margaret Memorial Park, Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija.

TESSA ANDREA BUENVIAJE-REDITO

Died in the Grace of our Lord on November 5, 2001 at the age of 30.

Her bereaved and loving husband **Joseph**; her parents **Felipe** and **Angelina**; her brothers and sisters **Jay** and **Myrna**, **Moppet & Mallotte**, **Stella** and **Butch**, **Vic** and **Mellanie**, **Malta** and **Jimmy**, **Alex** and **Kaye**, **Dennis**; her nephews and nieces **Marvin**, **Renzo**, **Jay-Jay**, **Drawde**, **Gino**, **Blanca**, **Kara**, **Reanne**, **Andy & Mike**; her parents-in-law **Wenceslao & Milagros Redito**; her sisters and brother-in-law **Melissa**, **Paolo** and **Mona**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be at Loyola Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque on Saturday, November 10, 2001 after the 8:30 AM Mass at La Funeraria Paz.

Dearly Beloved

Capt. Jose E. Diaz

*Peacefully joined his Creator
on November 6, 2001 at the age of 81.*

Loving husband to **Teresa**;
devoted father to **Letty**; and benevolent mentors to
all **PACC Shipping Phils., Inc Directors and staff.**

His remains lie in state at the Garden Suite
Loyola Memorial Chapel, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Cremation of his remains will be
on Monday, 8:00 a.m. November 12, 2001.



STILL GOING EXTRA STRONG

Red Horse Beer Muziklaban, the country's biggest search for the best amateur bands, kicked off at 8th Day, St. Francis Square, Ortigas Center, with simultaneous launches in Cebu and Davao. J. Walter Thompson Muziklaban is now in its third year. Shown is Red Horse Beer brand manager Geran Guerrero raising a toast for the official launch of the competition. Joining him on stage are (from left) Quest Broadcasting VP Bernie Buenaseda, J. Walter Thompson managing director Mark Webster, and San Miguel Beer division marketing manager Glenn Glinoga.



AMBASSADOR of France to the Philippines Gilles Chouraqui toasts the French Legion of Honor's new chevalier, SGV & Co. chairman Cesar V. Purisima, after he was conferred the Order of Merit on Oct. 12. Purisima, who is the chair of the Philippines-France Business Council, was cited for his outstanding service and role in building bridges between the two countries, particularly in the areas of business and trade.



COUNTERSTRIKE GAMETIME

Philips LightFrame, the official PC monitor provider of GameWorld Cebu 2001 slated from Nov. 8 to 11 at Ayala Center Cebu, is sponsoring a CounterStrike Map-Making Competition as part of the event highlights. The four-day

tourney will also stage a 5-on-5 CounterStrike Tournament, Quake III Fragfest Challenge, Game Development Competition and Game Workshops. Present in the contract signing is Ann M. Soriano, sales and marketing manager of Philips PC Peripherals, with Inier L. Candor of Events-Media Marketing Inc. GameWorld Cebu 2001 is also presented by Ayala Center Cebu and Genetic Computer Institute. This event is also sponsored by DomainPhil.com, the official domain and website hosting provider; PlanetSavage.net; PinoyPC.net; Cebu Daily News; Net25; Philippine IT Update and Y101 FM, the official FM radio station.

Davao's The Venue celebrates 1

THE VENUE, Davao's ultimate entertainment center, celebrates its first anniversary this month with a series of shows for Davaoenos. South Border will have a show on Nov. 9 and 10, followed by "Si Nora at Si Vilma", a musical featuring Allan K and Leonard Obal on Nov. 16 and 17. Finally, there will be a Side A stand up dance party on Nov. 23 and 24. Aside from concerts, the 1200-sqm The Venue can also be utilized for other events such as fashion shows, billiard tournaments, boxing matches, product launches and seminars. The Venue can hold up to 1000 persons.

BSP governor addresses SHDA

GOVERNOR Rafael Buenaventura of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas has been invited to address the business meeting of the Subdivision and Housing Developers Association (SHDA) today, Wednesday, starting at 12 noon at the Makati AB Room, Shangri-La Hotel, Makati City. Buenaventura is expected to discuss the status of the banking system, interest and other fiscal policies of the Bangko Sentral, as these affect the promotion of sustainable housing finance as well as the provision of a conducive financial environment for the participation of private financial institutions in mortgage financing. SHDA members and friends may coordinate their attendance at 890-7032, telefax 890-0323, or e-mail shda@mozcom.com.

Cainta Catholic College '92 homecoming

THE CAINTA Catholic College (formerly Cainta Catholic School), will be having an alumni homecoming titled "Batch '92 on May 2002". Prior to that there will be an assembly on Nov. 11, Sunday, at 2 p.m. at the Holy Circle, CCC grounds. For more details, call or text MaryRose Vinluan at 0919-2053783/656-7803, Josephine Caraan at 648-5112/0917-8344103.

New opportunities in pest control

PEST control experts are considering new avenues for business development and will discuss these opportunities in a forum for industry practitioners and building entrepreneurs. The symposium, themed "Discovering New Business Opportunities in Pest Control", will be held on Nov. 8, Thursday, at the Development Academy of the Philippines in Tagaytay City. Dr. Pablo Ocampo and Dr. Pedro Alviola of the University of the Philippines-Los Baños will talk on rodent and bird and bat control. Jojo Duenas of Bayer Philippines will talk about disinfection. The symposium is sponsored by the Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority, in cooperation with the Pest Control Association of the Philippines. For inquiries, call 922-3355; 291-6222, or 834-5668.

Back to business for BA Concorde

BRITISH Airways pledged its support for New York with the announcement that Concorde flights will resume across the Atlantic today, Nov. 7. To mark the first flight today, British Airways plans to invite its frequent Concorde flyers, corporate customers and media. The return flight on Nov. 8 will also be for invited guests only. The first commercial flight will be on Friday, Nov. 9. The airline begins operations with an initial six times a week service between London Heathrow and New York JFK.

Customer service, selling seminars

CFS Continental Technology offers two seminars for November. "Customer Service That Works" (Nov. 7, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.), is a one-day workshop for the frontliners—those who regularly interact with customers. Learn the magic words that keep them coming back for more. "The Challenge of Creative Selling," (Nov. 9, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.), deals with the innovative methods of selling that focus on the ever-changing buyer's market. The half-day seminar involves sharing of selling experiences and valuable inputs about the sales cycle. For more details, call 8232358, 8234825.

San Mig Light, PinoyCentral host adventure race

SAN MIG LIGHT and PinoyCentral are holding the third and last leg of the Urban Jungle Adventure Race in Baguio from November 9 to 10. Interested participants should get ready to bike, run, rappel, kayak, and take on other action-packed events. Log on to <http://sanmiglight.pinoycentral.com> to register online or get your registration forms at the following outlets of Fusion Concept Shop: Ground Floor of Festival Mall, Alabang; 2nd level of SM City Bacoor, Cavite; 3rd level of SM City Manila; ground floor of SM Southmall, Las Piñas City; and at the Ground Floor of SM City Pampanga. The race kicks-off with a party, today, Nov. 7 at Skybox, Cooyeesan Mall.



INQUIRER SVP CONDUCTS TECHNICAL SESSION

Renato Reinoso, Philippine Daily Inquirer senior vice president for sales and marketing, conducted a technical session titled "Breaking the Geographical Barrier: The Philippine Daily Inquirer Experience", during the recently concluded SupplyLink 2001 convention held at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel. Organized by the Purchasing and Materials Management Association of the Philippines (PMMAP), the event was attended by more than a hundred purchasing and materials management practitioners. Shown are, from left, PMMAP former president Edward T. Limjap, CPM, SupplyLink 2001 program committee member Herman T. Ong, PMMAP corporate secretary Miraluz C. Tan, Reinoso, PMMAP president Imelda S. Carrillo, CPM, PMMAP secretariat senior staff Thess Rañon, SupplyLink 2001 technical session committee member Frank Bernabe, and PMMAP 3rd vice president Dean L. Guevarra, CPM.



PRU LIFE UK NEW BRANCH

Pru Life UK, the only British life insurer and one of the leading names in the Philippine insurance industry, makes it even bigger as it opened another branch at the 20th floor of the Wynsum Corporate Plaza in Ortigas recently. The new business office will house the four new branches of the Metro Manila 2 Area (Peridot, Chrysolite, Malachite and Golden Agate). Pru Life UK president and CEO Bobby G. Madrid (3rd from right) and SVP for sales Vic M. Español (4th from right) lead the ribbon-cutting in the inauguration. Looking on are the managers of the four branches which will be housed in the new office, from left, Isabel Mogatas of Golden Agate, Michael Agleron of Malachite, Robert Gil of Peridot and Albert Yung of Chrysolite.

Filipino appointed chancellor

DR. JOSEF de Ubaldo, shown speaking above, founding president of the Philippine Federation of Natural Health and Environment Friendly Organizations, was appointed national chancellor of the International Association of Educators for World Peace (IAEWP-Phils), a UN-NGO World Messenger of Peace by its international president, Dr. Charles Mercieca, PhD. De Ubaldo also chairs the 12th World Peace Congress to be held



DE UBALDO

in the Philippines from April 19-21, 2002.

To launch the 12th World Peace Congress and to confer the International Peace Awards to outstanding Filipinos in their respective fields, a Dinner for World Peace will be held on Nov. 14 at the grand ballroom of the Century Park Hotel. De Ubaldo will also launch his book, "Insights in World Peace Through Education and Culture" at 3 p.m. Those interested to place their orders may call 371-7015 to 16.

OBITUARIES

ANTONIO (TONY) QUINTOS y del RIO

Entrego su alma al Señor el 5 de noviembre 2001.

Sus hermanos Jose y Salome Carranceja (†), Isabel (†) y Joe R. Roberts (†), Patsy y Lucas Martinez (†), Letty y Enrique Yrure, Rosario y Roberto del Castillo (†).

Hermanos politicos, sobrinos y sobrinas ruegan rezos del piadoso lector.

El finado se halla de cuerpo presente en la iglesia de Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Broadway, Quezon City.

El entierro proseguirá al crematorio despues de la misa de las nueve de la mañana, jueves, noviembre 8, 2001.

FRANCISCA BANSIL LEE

of Guagua, Pampanga

Peacefully joined her Creator on October 31, 2001 at the age of 79 in Toronto, Canada.

Her bereaved family, husband Antonio (†); children Rosario Cancio and Mila, Edel, Resty and Ging, Mira, Noli and Ida, and Alma; grandchildren Christine, Patrick, Debbie, Mary Rose, Michael, Margaret and Rebecca Louise; brother, sisters, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Interment will be on Saturday, November 10, 2001, 10:00 a.m. at Queen of Heaven Catholic Cemetery, Woodridge, Ontario, Canada.

"... absent with the body to be present with the Lord."

2 Corinthian 5:8

ORLANDO A. MORALES

of Guagua, Pampanga and Oakbrook, Illinois

Born: July 11, 1946
Died: November 3, 2001

His loving wife Lucy Tan; children Jason and Kathy, Janice and Chito Gomez, Kristine and Michael; sisters Dr. Naty Morales, Letty M. and Dr. Eduardo Laxa; brother Isabelo, relatives and friends mourn his passing away and request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Interment will be at the Queen of Heaven, Hillside, Illinois on November 8, 2001.

"I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

John 14:6

Tomasita Domingo Arabia

of Bacolod City and Manila

May 28, 1912 - November 4, 2001

A great Nanay to Evan and Dequita, Norman and Fides, Inday Lynn, Boy and Mae; a wonderful Lola to Yvonne and Toby, Evan Jr., Sheri, Sharon, Sharina, Love, Gabe, Angela, Karen, Borge, Kevin, Inigo; and the best great grandma to Annika.

"Thank you for giving us so much of yourself."

Her remains lie in state at Rolling Hills Memorial Chapels, Bacolod City and will be transferred to Bakyas Immaculate Conception Parish Church on Friday, November 9, 2001.

Interment will be on Saturday, November 10, 2001 at the Bacolod Memorial Park after the 2:00 p.m. Mass.



An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...

INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

- 1 Copy of Death Certificate
- 2 Any identification document (I.D.)

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS and bank-to-bank payments

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY REQUIEMS
FREE OBIT DESIGN

POWER AT WORK

Principle-centered power leads to positive change

BY REGINA GALANG REYES

PEOPLE do weird things with power. People who have too much of it often abuse it. People who have a little of it sometimes try to make much of it. And people who don't have it may want to grab it. In government and business, such attitudes make things go haywire.

But what really is power? Is it something people should shy away from or gravitate towards? Dr. Blaine Lee, founding vice president of Covey Leadership Center, answers these questions in his definitive book on power, "The Power Principle: Influence with Honor," and in his lectures and workshops around the globe on the same topic.

To get an insight into his views on power, INQUIRER interviewed Dr. Lee who is presently in Manila to share his power principles with Philippine leaders.

PaW: There are some people who are very powerful like Hitler or Osama bin Laden but they don't use entirely coercive or utilitarian approaches to power. They seem to have character-

istics that bring them close to certain people to the extent that people would die for them. How would you explain this?

Lee: The world always has bullies who will intimidate other people. Some people, because of the benefits they receive and that would be what I call utility power, would say, "I know they do that but it's justified in the face of the cause." And then others would say, "I would even give my life for this cause because I believe something good will happen." So we have 9-11. None of the Power Principles were manifested in this case. Just because someone believes in something doesn't make it so. I think in the lessons of history over time, as with Hitler, we will look back and say, "Something's wrong with the man."

Gandhi said you cannot do wrong in one part of your life and right in another part of your life. Life is one indivisible whole. I have also read from Osama bin Laden many things he has written, public statements and televised broadcasts that he's made, that are full of hatred and bigotry and racial, ethnic and religious violence. A person can turn and be pleasant to this person, or be

kind to this little animal or something. But that's not who they are, really. And so someone might be swayed by that and say, "That's a part of who they are, that's the part I will look at." But what you really are speaks so loudly.

PaW: So how does one deal with people like that? You can even have people like that on a smaller scale in the workplace or in the family.

Lee: I actually wrote a whole chapter about that subject and gave 10 practical suggestions for dealing with someone who is abusive or coercive to you. And you can boil it down to survive, escape, resist or evade. That's the combination of possible options. You always have choices. You can change your approach. You can hang on until they're gone. You can get help from somebody else. You can avoid the problems. You can work to become a source of influence.

You have to be wise—streetwise—to protect yourself but also at the same time, work for a change. If that can't happen, then you make an alliance with other people. If that can't happen, then maybe you'll eventually leave that situation. Maybe, leave a bad marriage, leave a bad organization.

A woman said to me recently, "Life is too short. I'm willing to swim up the stream. I'm now swimming up the waterfall. It's overwhelming. It's too toxic where I am. I'm going to leave and I'm going to build with people who want to build with me."

Some people ask, "How can I do the most good? By staying where I am and fighting the system and working for change? And providing a buffer for other people if I am in a leadership role? Or can I do more good by leaving the system, leaving the company, leaving the organization, and going to another place where I can make a difference?"

I don't know the answer. It requires a lot of wisdom and judgment to say, "How can I do the most good?"

PaW: There are leaders who don't use their power. What happens when there's a situation like that especially in a corporation?

Lee: We ask audiences a lot of times, "Do you know someone, who because of title, position, family name or inherited wealth are thrust into the public spotlight?" Potentially, they have the ability to influence other people but they don't use that. That happens. When that happens, the power diminishes. As a life coach, when persons don't see that they have power, then I have to wake them up. They have many options, but they don't see them. Most change begins with awareness. So I say, "Do you realize what you could do?" They say, "Well, they just want more money and I don't have more money." And I say, "Wait, you have access to privileges. You have access to opportunity. You have access to everything. You have information many people want. And I call all these things utility power. You have many things you don't even know you're not using."

You can move from powerlessness to a position of power by capitalizing on the things you do have." They say, "I do?" I say, "Yes, let me show you what you have."

PaW: If you were an ordinary employee and you see that there are changes that need to be done in a company and you have a sense of powerlessness, how would you try to influence people so that the change that you see need to happen, happens?

Lee: I would list a whole array of possibilities. First, how knowledgeable are you of the current circumstances?

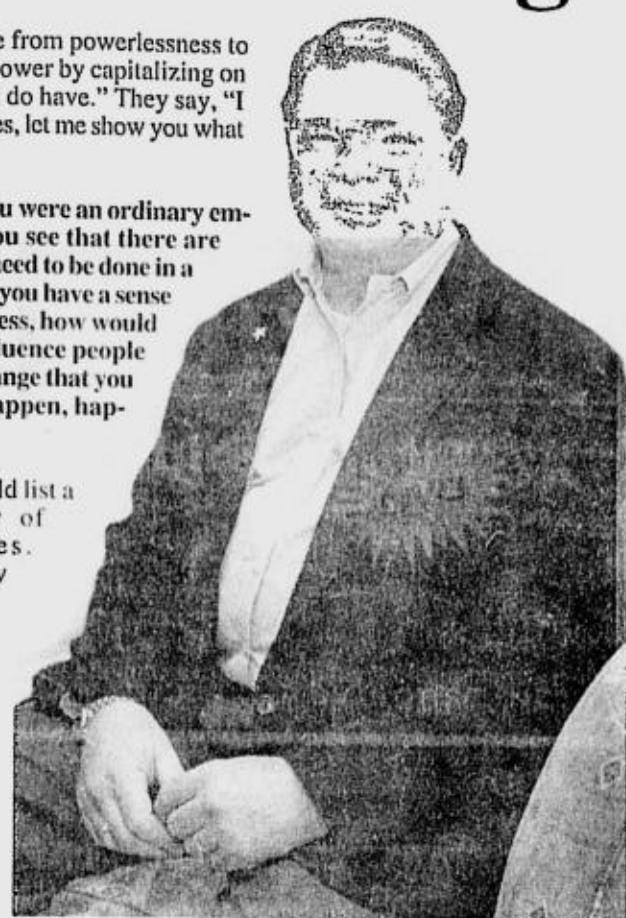
Have you done your homework? Do you know what's going on and what maintains the status quo? Because this is the thing that you are up against. Second, who else sees what you see? Do you have to form a coalition, an alliance, a partnership, or become part of a network that works systematically for change? Third, how do you know it is possible? Maybe it may not be possible where you are but it is possible somewhere else.

Tom Peters says that when two secretaries agree to move their desks 15 inches closer and remove a partition that's blocking their view, they have become empowered. The manager should ask, "How do I create different conditions that empower people?"

I ask them, have you taken a class? Have you read a book? Have you participated in a seminar? Have you more skills today than yesterday? If your job was put on the line right now, for example, it didn't exist, could you make a sufficient justification for its existence? How can you add value? What does it take for you to become more powerful? Whose permission do you need? You would say, "I don't need anyone's permission. I need to take the risk; I need to step forward and do it. Maybe take small steps and start on the things I really do have control over."

Identify what you can and can't do and then, devote most of your energy to the things you can do rather than complain.

(Next week, Lee talks about how to deal with people in small positions who abuse what little power they have.)



LEE

PHOTO BY ROGER CARPIO

Do careers end at 40?

BY ERNIE O. CECILIA

JOJO, 41, is a star salesman of a large car dealership company. His boss is 26 and seemed to prefer managing younger people with lower salaries. Jojo was among those retrenched due to current business reverses. After a few months, the company hired new graduates willing to start at the minimum wage.

Two decades ago, seniority and hierarchy mattered in the workplace. Today, we see a shift in the way many large and progressive companies are hiring and firing people. The harsh reality is that older employees are more likely to be replaced by someone younger who earns half as much.

"Just as the product life cycle is shortening, so too is the career cycle of the average employee," Douglas Hall and Philip Mirvis said in their essay, "The New Workplace and Older Workers."

They write that at the turn of the century, the number of CEOs in their 30s and 40s increased by 17 percent. If the top people are getting younger, it is then assumed that those people below are younger still.

Imagine this: Your CEO is in his mid-30s. You are a manager in your mid-20s to early 40s. Who will you hire, an applicant younger than you or someone twice your age? Are you willing to hire someone as old as your mother or father?

Naturally, when the managers doing the hiring are getting younger, they will tend to hire people younger than them. This makes it more difficult for people who are 40 or over to get hired.

If you are over 40, is there something that you can do to prevent getting retrenched or fired in the new economy?

Firstly, realize that people over 40 get fired for a reason, whether true or imagined. There is nothing basically wrong with being 40, but some managers complain that older employees become less productive, less creative, and less enthusiastic about their work.

Here are a few tips on what to do if you are over 40 and don't want to lose your job:

- Acquire as many competencies as you can to be able to do your present job and prepare yourself to handle greater responsibilities.
- Match the company not the job. Learn the



ILLUSTRATION BY JED ESTRADA

corporate culture and adapt to it. Have the organizational savvy that will help you navigate through the corporate jungle, regardless of your position and your age. If you don't fit into the corporate culture, you could be unfit to stay.

• Reinvent yourself. Avoid being complacent. No job is permanent. You're a rising star today, you could be a falling star tomorrow, unless you keep reinventing yourself to be more valuable to the organization.

• Make your presence felt. Everybody loves a winner. Employment is about winning. Winners are felt, seen and appreciated. In whatever you do, be the best you can be and make sure that your boss notices that. Be at the right time and the right place doing the right things right.

But how can you keep doing all these things when your boss is not supportive, you're overworked and underpaid, you don't see a bright future in your organization, or your career has reached a plateau?

The answer is simple. You cannot change your boss, your company, existing pay policies, or corporate culture. But you can change yourself. Strive to be the best in your own career, contribute as much as you can, build a good track record, make yourself marketable, and you will continue to have a good job.

You can always build your own career or change careers if you have to—in your company now or in others that will get interested in competent employees with a good attitude, even if you are now 40.

(The author is president and CEO of EC Business Solutions and Career Center. Send reactions or inquiries at ernie@edsamail.com.ph)

GenX...

(From page B12)

marks Jacob. "I realized it takes a lot longer to convince people here to see things your way, and hard sell is not the way to do it. Over here, it's about building relationships. It's about listening to people and working closely with them. But I learned quickly and my father taught me a lot."

Taking into account perseverance, patience, confidence and the ability to be very flexible as among the traits which to a large extent contribute to his competence as an executive of a multinational firm, Jacob claims he is a generalist rather than a specialist in his profession. "It's important for a country head to have knowledge in many fields," says Jacob who once worked with the multinational department of Marsh in New York and who has been exposed to the entire spectrum of insurance broking and risk management. He has been with Marsh for 12 years.

Unified team

As president and CEO, Jacob believes in empowering the people under him, his staff. While he feels that a strong leadership is crucial, he is by no means a dictator. "I believe in a unified management team and I see to it that everybody contributes something to the company. I welcome inputs from my staff and give them free reign to express their ideas," says Jacob. Marsh, he adds, has a very low turnover rate among the employees. There is pride, he points out, in being part of and identified with a company with the stature of Marsh, which happens to be the largest insurance broking firm in the world.

It goes without saying that the privilege of working for a company like Marsh is coupled with high-pressure tasks. It's tough and demanding. Avers Jacob, "We go by very straight guidelines. We are subject to internal and external audit. The bosses look at our monthly and quarterly reports. We have to make sure that we're in strict compliance with company regulations all the time." Jacob reports directly to Marsh's regional director, who is based in Sydney, Australia.

Stress management

Because stress comes with the territory, Jacob has become pretty adept at handling it. Claiming that he takes things fairly easily, he de-stresses himself and finds relaxation by engaging in sports—his favorites: tennis, squash and wake-boarding. He recently took a

break in one of our local beaches in order to wake-board. "I guess I know how to have a good time," says Jacob, who happens to be an advocate of maintaining a sound balance. "I work hard and play hard as well."

The youthful executive also insists that a good disposition is everything. So is a bright outlook. He is one who can laugh at life and at himself, his foibles. One who tries to be happy regardless of the circumstances, Jacob contends. "If you're happy in your personal life, it shows, it echoes in your work."

Jacob is passionate about his career and plans on staying on. "The challenges and opportunities never end. There's always something new such as our recently launched Enterprise Risk, which covers a broader scope, including strategic and financial risks. It gives Marsh another dimension," he enthuses.

Different world

In five to 10 years, Jacob predicts, insurance will be a different ballgame. In fact, the face of insurance began to change after the tragic event of Sept. 11. "The attack on the World Trade Center triggered a lot of companies to take away certain coverages. The insurance market went from soft to hard. It hit the bottom and spiked overnight."

Remarkably, MMC which had offices at the World Trade Center, lost only one day in terms of business (that is the day of the attack itself). "Business continuity is essential," says Jacob. "We managed because our back-up system is very efficient and we were able to replicate our data. We were also able to relocate our displaced employees to our headquarters on 6th Avenue (Avenues of the Americas)." Though the loss of 290 lives had been unspeakably sad, MMC, says Jacob, had to move on.

So we must all at one time or another. Jacob says it's not for him to decide whether to stay here or not. "Though I'd like to be part of the country's potential growth, I'm open to wherever MMC brings me." The important thing, he points out, is to be certain of the path you're following. "And to know that you're anchored to something, a goal or a plan. You have to know where you're going."

In a manner of speaking, Jacob is already there. Being president and CEO of a prestigious company, he has reached one of his goals. "Eventually, maybe in five years, I would like to be regional head," he says. What can possibly stop him?

LEARN TO WALK THE TIGHT ROPE

of UNCERTAINTY, CONFLICT and RISK



Nov. 13, 2001 (Tuesday)

EFFECTIVE INFLUENCING SKILLS

Alan Barker, Regional Director for Asia Pacific, Strategic Consulting Services Inc. and Director, IMPACT Consultancy Group (SCS Philippine partner), will discuss the importance of influencing skills in leadership and identify the underlying motive, thought patterns and competencies needed in the skillful use of influence. He will illustrate how one can acquire these competencies and supporting skills for more effective leadership.

Nov. 14, 2001 (Wednesday)

EFFECTIVE CONFLICT RESOLUTION TECHNIQUES

Josie Santamaria, President, Career Systems, Inc., will talk about the nature of conflict and attitudes and behaviors of people in conflict, identify the best way to manage conflict, outline the steps in conflict resolution, and teach you how to apply these techniques in your particular situation.



Nov. 15, 2001 (Thursday)

MANAGING RISKS IN LIFE AND AT WORK

David Jacob, President, Marsh Philippines, which provides risk management services, will talk about the kinds of risks facing companies and people at work, the values and attitudes towards risks, and the ways companies and individuals can lessen the risks and its consequences and prepare for worst case scenarios.

All sessions will be conducted from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the Santiago Hall, Mozzanine, Equitable PCIB Tower 1, Makati Ave. cor. H. V. de la Costa St., Makati City, Metro Manila. Tickets are available at P250 (balcony), P300 (orchestra) and P350 (orchestra patron). Early bird discount of 10% shall be given to the first 100 registrants per seminar. Registration fee includes handouts and certificate of completion. Snacks will NOT be served because eating in the auditorium is prohibited.

Sponsors:



Audio Visual Driver Int'l (Phil), Inc.
Professional A/V & Home Theater System Consultant

Philippine Daily Inquirer
PEOPLE at WORK
Seminar Series

AN EVENT ORGANIZED BY OPTIMUS MANAGERS & ADVISORS, INC.

e-mail: peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph.

PEOPLE *at* WORK

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ REGINA GALANG REYES, Subsection Editor

TURBULENT ECONOMIC WATERS

GenX CEO steers risk and insurance firm to growth

BY CECILE G. GARCIA

AT 33, David C. Jacob is the youngest president and CEO in the history of Marsh & McLennan Com-

panies. Marsh & McLennan is a professional services firm engaged in risk and insurance service, investment management and consultancy. Jacob heads the risk and insurance

group in the Philippines. Born and raised here, he is of Fil-American parentage.

"I worked my way up," says Jacob, who joined the Marsh & McLennan Group of Companies (MMC) in 1990, right after graduating from the University of Arizona where he took up Business Administration. Earlier, he had attended a boarding school in Pennsylvania. "My parents wanted me to be independent," he quips.

Jacob, who believes that luck plays a role in the various aspects of life, considers himself lucky. "I had all the right breaks," he says. Starting out as an account executive with the New York offices of MMC, he subsequently became assistant vice president for the Global Services Group in charge of the top 100 Fortune corporations.

A career involving insurance, according to Jacob, seemed as natural as breathing. It was almost inevitable. "My father was a long-time insurance man. He was connected with Afia." His father, an American, who married a Filipina, adapted our country and assimilated our ways, was also his mentor. "I learned a lot from him," says Jacob.

During the 80s, he recounts, his dad decided to get out of insurance and consequently formed his own firm, Corporate Insurance Brokers. "He

asked me to come home from New York so that I could join his company." After five years with MMC, Jacob felt it was yet another lucky break.

But as fate would have it, after merely a year, MMC, with whom Jacob's dad's company had always

had good working relations, offered to buy out the company.

Jacob was asked to stay on, and in 1996, he became vice president and department head for Sales and Business Development of MMC's Philippine operations. Three years later, in February 1999, he was promoted to COO and country manager. In October of the same year, he was appointed president and CEO.

Transition

As country head, Jacob says his biggest challenge is to make sure that they do not overlook any risk exposure for their client, and this has to be done in the most economical way possible. Marsh as part of



JACOB

PHOTO BY RETOY JOHNSON

MMC (the parent company) is involved mainly in insurance brokering and risk management. "We're brokers," says Jacob. "We design insurance packages and canvass the market for the best deal for our client."

A challenge as well, albeit a past one, was making the transition from New York. "It was a struggle at first," re-

GENX/B11

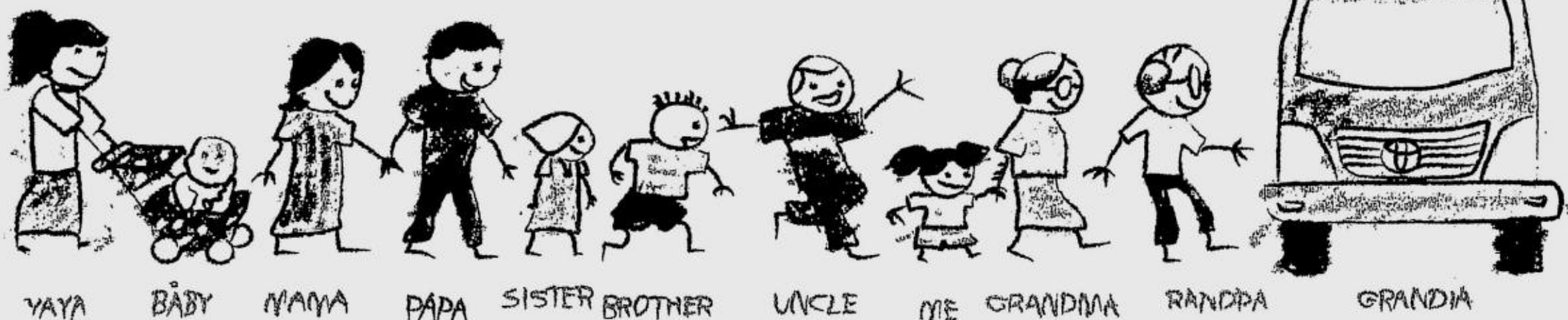
MIND MAPPING for BUSINESS APPLICATIONS

Improve your analyzing, creative and communicating skills using Mind Mapping. Attend a workshop by a Buzan Licensed Instructor. For details call up Dynah in Cebu at 032.2330614 or Jaycee in Manila at 7768571

Cebu Business Hotel, Nov 08 & 09, 2001. 10AM to 6PM
Manila Peninsula, Nov 23 & 24, From 1PM to 7PM

CAREER Tales

My Family


HIACE
 SUPERGRANDIA 3.0 BSE

It's going to be with your family for a long time. Long enough to see your children through school and eventually, through the humps and bumps of life. Everything about the Hiace Grandia has been designed for a safer, more comfortable drive. A family van you can trust your kids in. As for your kids, it's obvious they already consider it family.



Ergonomically designed cockpit area



Power window, doorlocks and side view mirror switches



Dual airconditioning system



Luxurious dual captain seats



Highly visible rear garnish with lamp



Also available Grandia 3.0 DSL GL 2.0 GAS 8 Commuter 2.4 DSL

PASSION

TOYOTA

www.philippineregistry.com

Protect your Business Domain name NOW! .BIZ goes live today at 12:00 nn.

Register now at www.philippineregistry.com.

For inquiries, call 421-2212 or e-mail sales@philippineregistry.com.



Nothing personal. Just business.™

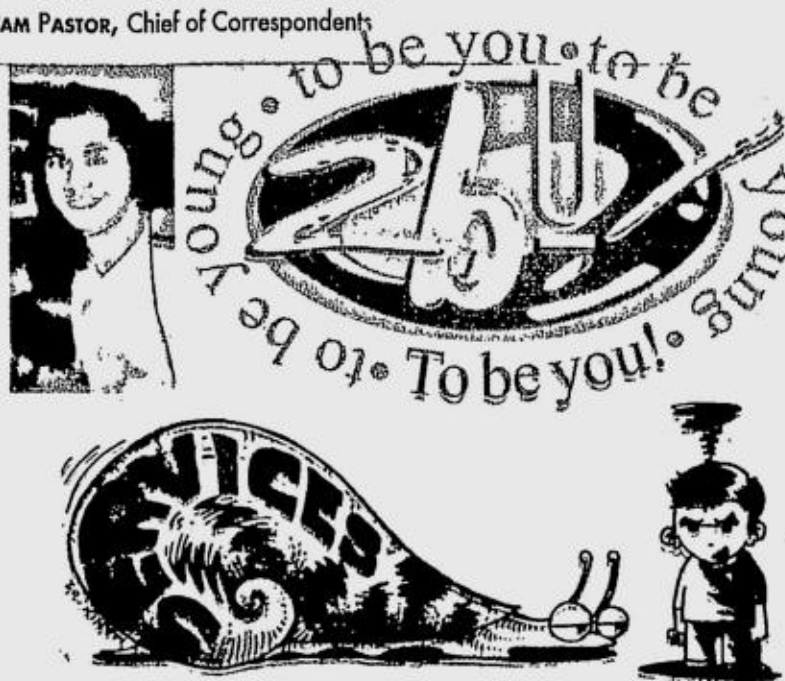


For feedback or suggestions lg_2bu@inquirer.com.ph

LIFESTYLE

CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor ■ PAM PASTOR, Chief of Correspondents

Halloween hangover and other beautiful lingerings



This Week
at SM Supermalls

Disney PIXAR
MONSTERS, INC.

MIKE & SULLEY
PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

ATRIUM, MEGA A
SM ICE SKATING RINK
SM CINEMA

SM MEGAMALL

Back to reality after the long weekend, 2bU! gives you another helping of The Cranberries, introduces you to VJ hopefuls and eases you back to your everyday young world



Get the new PLDT CALLER ID HANDSET and secure your home from crank callers.

- 3 line LCD screen
- 50 incoming numbers and 20 outgoing Call Memory
- 18 Speed Dial buttons
- Call Back button
- Automatic Time and Date display
- New Call Indicator
- Mute Button
- Music on hold
- Delete Button
- Redial Button
- Colors available: Black & White

P1,650 only

www.pldt.com.ph

PLDT
convergence@home

Now, security is in one convenient handset. Know who's calling you 24 hours a day - landline or cellphone, local or national long distance calls. Stop crank-calls with the new PLDT Caller ID handset.

Where can I get the PLDT Caller ID handset?

Visit any PLDT Business Office nationwide, or any SM Appliance Store, Abenson's and Ambassador Appliances within Metro Manila.

How can I avail of a PLDT Caller ID handset?

For current PLDT subscribers with or without Caller ID:

- Visit any of the outlets mentioned and present the latest PLDT statement of account and a valid ID.
- Accomplish the Caller ID application form.
- Pay P1,650 to bring home the handset.
- To install, simply unplug the existing telephone line from the connecting block and plug in the line of the Caller ID handset.

For customers who are applying for a new PLDT line:

- Visit any PLDT Business Office nationwide to fill out the customer application form.
- Upon approval of the application, pay P2,999.00 for the installation of a new phone line and the Caller ID handset.
- Proceed to the Caller ID Booth to get your handset.
- Your Caller ID handset will be ready to use only upon installation of the telephone line. To install the Caller ID handset, simply plug in the line of the handset to the connecting block.

How much are the service fees and the monthly charges?

- New CID subscribers will pay a P50.00 one time Service Connection Charge and start paying the monthly service fee of P75.00
- Existing CID subscribers will just continue to pay the monthly service fee of P75.00

WEIGHT LESS CENTER

"No Time To Diet"
JANICE DE BELEN
TV HOST/ACTRESS

MENDEZ MEDICAL GROUP

371-8886 / 371-8887 / 373-0766
374-2437 / 373-3365 / 373-3366

WEIGHT LESS CENTER & SPA, 31-G Rocas Ave., Q.C.
CLINICA MANILA, 2F Bldg., A SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City
PATIENT FIRST MEDICAL CENTER, 3F Mercury Bldg., Glorietta, Mkt.
HEALTHWAY MEDICAL CLINIC, Basement Level, SM North, Q.C.
3rd Flr. The Plaza Bldg., Greenbelt Shopping Centre, Mkt.
MINDANAO AVENUE BRANCH, 2F Randa Bldg., Mindanao Ave., Q.C.
CEBU HOLDINGS, Suite 505 Cebu Business Park, Ayala Centre, Cebu City

ALL CLIENTS ARE SCHEDULED BY APPOINTMENT



You can also avail of
the Caller ID adjunct
unit for only P750!





Wake up and smell the Cranberries

BY MAUI V. REYES

DO YOU remember the days when you absent-mindedly sang "Linger" while doing your homework, or when you played some air-guitar when "Zombie" came on the radio? It's hard to believe it has been eight years since the Cranberries first burst into the pop scene. Irish music had never tasted so well since U2.

Back in 1989, Mike Hogan and his brother Noel and their friends Niall Quinn, along with Fergal Lawler, formed a band and called it The Cranberry Saw Us, playing rowdy music at gigs in their hometown of Limerick, Ireland. It was in 1990 when Dolores replaced Quinn (who left the band to play in another group) and rehearsed with the band in front of friends with the music Quinn wrote. After Dolores belted out "Linger," the band was sold.

Having recorded an EP that didn't quite sit well with the fans ("Uncertain"), the Cranberries continued playing gigs and rehearsing. Their hard work paid off with their major 1992 debut, "Everybody Is Doing It, So Why Can't We?" After that came a string of hit albums, "No Need to Argue," "To the Faithful Departed" and "Bury the Hatchet." Now the Irish band serves up its fifth, "Wake Up and Smell the Coffee."

For now, it's not only the promotion and preproduction for its upcoming tour that's keeping the band on its toes. Dolores and guitarist Noel Hogan became parents for the second time during the recording of the album, which the band agreed had played a major role in the making of the record.

"Having children helps you stop worrying about stupid things," Fergal says. "And they brought us closer as a band, too. We're always



The Irish band is back with a new album that reflects the new domesticity of the members



asking things like, 'How's the teeth-coming along?'"

In August, the band gave US fans a taste of "Coffee" with an acoustic bar tour, wherein fans were asked to send in essays on why they should be given tickets to the shows. Not only have they been getting chummy with US music lovers, but also participated in a charity auction for the Sept. 11 tragedy, donating a headband that Dolores wore in the "Zombie" video as well as her favorite "Falcon" guitar.

Now that the world can bite into a fifth serving of delish Irish music, 2bu! got to have a little chit-chat with bassist Mike Hogan about recording, touring and what's next for the Cranberries.

Let's talk about you. Did you ever want to be in a band?

I think every kid, at a certain age, dreams of being in a band. I had that dream, but I never really expected it to be like this. I thought being in this band would just be something I could do on the side. When I got my first guitar I never thought I would be in a band like this. It's just been amazing.

And who were you listening to when you got your first guitar?

(Laughs) Well, I listened to a lot of U2. And The Smiths and The Cure... also New Order.

This is the fifth studio album the Cranberries have released. What separates it from the others?

Well, there's not much difference. We got Stephen Street (producer) back (he did our first two albums). It brought back something to the band. We sort of realized we lacked something on the past two albums, so we brought him in again. It was definitely a creative experience.

Releasing this album on a different record label while at the same time going back to the past with Stephen Street must have been quite an experience.

Very much. A lot of artists were forgotten after the MCA merger. I think about 50 bands were lost? And to work with Stephen again... He just brought us back on the road, you know. I think we were lost in

between the last two albums.

Speaking of producers, you co-produced the last album, "Bury the Hatchet."

Yes we did, and we're not looking forward to producing again. (Laughs) We've tried it and to be honest, we didn't really like it. It didn't work for us. I mean, there are many bands out there who produce their albums and if it's their thing, good for them. There are too many opinions in the band.

What's recording like for you guys?

Well, Dolores usually likes having candles around. She likes having that dark atmosphere. As for me, well, I'm fine with anything, really.

Some of your songs, like "Time is Ticking Out" and "Salvation," deal with issues about the environment and drugs.

Dolores usually writes whatever

she feels that very moment. We're not trying to be a political band or a preachy band. And that's only a few songs on the record, it's not like the entire record is about them. I think Dolores having a family of her own inspires her to write about things like these. Like "Time is Ticking Out," she believes we should really take care of Mother Earth for our children, before it's too late. I guess family does that to you. And, of course, everyone has his own opinion.

How about touring? Your US tour was quite different from what other artists do.

Yes. We did a couple of shows in Los Angeles, Chicago, Montreal, New York. They were mainly small clubs.

And the tickets couldn't be purchased.

Fergal posts it on the website. He's constantly keeping the fans updated. But the tour was more of a "we're back" thing, just to let them know we're back with a record out. So it's the true fans who got to see the show. And not only them but also some working people, you know, people in suits who just got out of work. Mostly from the record company. (Laughs) But, of course, we let them sit in the back and got the kids to sit in the front. (Laughs)

That would be quite unfair to the fans.

I know. We plan to do more shows like that, too. It's refreshing, you know? To be able to play to a small crowd who truly appreciate your music. It's good to do small gigs. Around March next year we're going to have a "normal" tour, playing bigger venues.

Your tour for "Bury the Hatchet" was the biggest the band has done, with 110 shows. Is the next tour going to top that?

There probably won't be much difference. We like having a simple stage, simple setup. If you have too much that just takes away the

music. Right now we're not really planning the tour yet, but most probably between now and Christmas, they'll be planning it all out already. We plan to go everywhere this time—take a year or so touring in Asia, Europe and, hopefully, South America.

You do remember that you stopped by the Philippines in '96, right?

Yes, of course. (Laughs) We'd love to go back and play a couple of shows.

Having been there and done that, what's your take on the current music scene?

Hmmm... (Laughs) Well, it's not really my thing. It's good to see bands like Travis and Coldplay, though. And, of course, U2 and REM came out with albums, so that's really good. I guess bands like us just have to put up... What can you do? But people will grow up and change. People's tastes would change and they'll constantly want new music.

Any plans of collaborating with other artists?

None really. Dolores does a bunch of those, but I mean, it's hard enough being in this band, what more if you play for another band? I'd love to open for U2, though. That has never happened and I'd love for it to happen.

So what's next for the Cranberries?

Promotion till Christmas, preproduction for the tour... March, the tour.

Itching to record a new album already?

Well, during the tour we'll be rehearsing, and usually songs come out of that... There's a lot of new stuff and just these things that are floating around. Music just comes.

The Cranberries' new album "Wake Up and Smell the Coffee" is now available under MCA Universal.

Bands go indie to make their kind of music

BY RAYA LOPEZ MARTIN

2bu! Correspondent,
University of the Philippines College Baguio

INDEPENDENCE may be a desirable thing, but not quite easy to do. But in the local music business, becoming an indie artist is easier, especially with support from authorities like NU and Tower. Being independent is not just about shelling out tons of money to record your songs and produce an album. It's also not trusting egotistical labels, giving yourself the control to create without boundaries and coming up with something truly your own.

A handful of local artists have already proclaimed their independence. They include a soulful artist, ambient experimentalist and an alternative group, all with exceptional talent.

Rayyn

IN A BUSINESS where pretty-boy looks do not mean much since scary looking rock stars dominate and sloppy clothing is a given, Rayyn should feel out of his depth. But having left London's business world to pursue a singing career, he had to have the heart to pursue his dream.

Rayyn (who got his name from a numerology play) didn't have any formal training in music. He can't read notes, relying mainly on a good ear. He started out young, at 14, playing the drums, guitar, bass and piano. He graduated from Ateneo de Manila University in 1994 and went to London to work for a year. Returning to the Philippines, he had various jobs before he realized he wanted to pursue his love for music. "I guess if you really love music, you'll come back to it," he says.

Rayyn wrote songs and came up with a very personal album. "The songs practically wrote themselves," he says. The process, according to him, was a nurturing experience. He rediscovered himself in the process. Composing and arranging every instrumentation and vocals in the album, Rayyn is a certified solo artist. He only started looking for session musicians after he finished the album.

Carrying his name, the band is composed of childhood friend Eric Villadelgado (guitars) and Eric's friend Boyet Aquino (drums). Besides being the vocalist, Rayyn also plays the bass during live performances. Although he is compared him to Dan Haseltine of

Jars of Clay, one of those who influenced his music, Rayyn's self-titled debut album is interestingly fresh. He calls his music "indie folk pop rock." Filled with love-inspired numbers and reflections from journal pages, his album is open to different levels of interpretation. It is amazing how one guy can piece together different instruments and create harmony from shifting, contemplative mood.

Rayyn's talent shines through 15 different tracks, including "Solitary" and his catchy first single "Hold On." The CD, by the way, is impressively packaged into a 48-page book designed as a collection of postcards and filled with scenes from Baguio and Ilocos. The book complements the theme of soul-searching and peaceful travel. "We usually need to get away, not to escape, but to find space, and in that searching, we find ourselves," says Anna of Three Fates who handled the album packaging. Indeed, listeners get to travel along with Rayyn in his special journey.

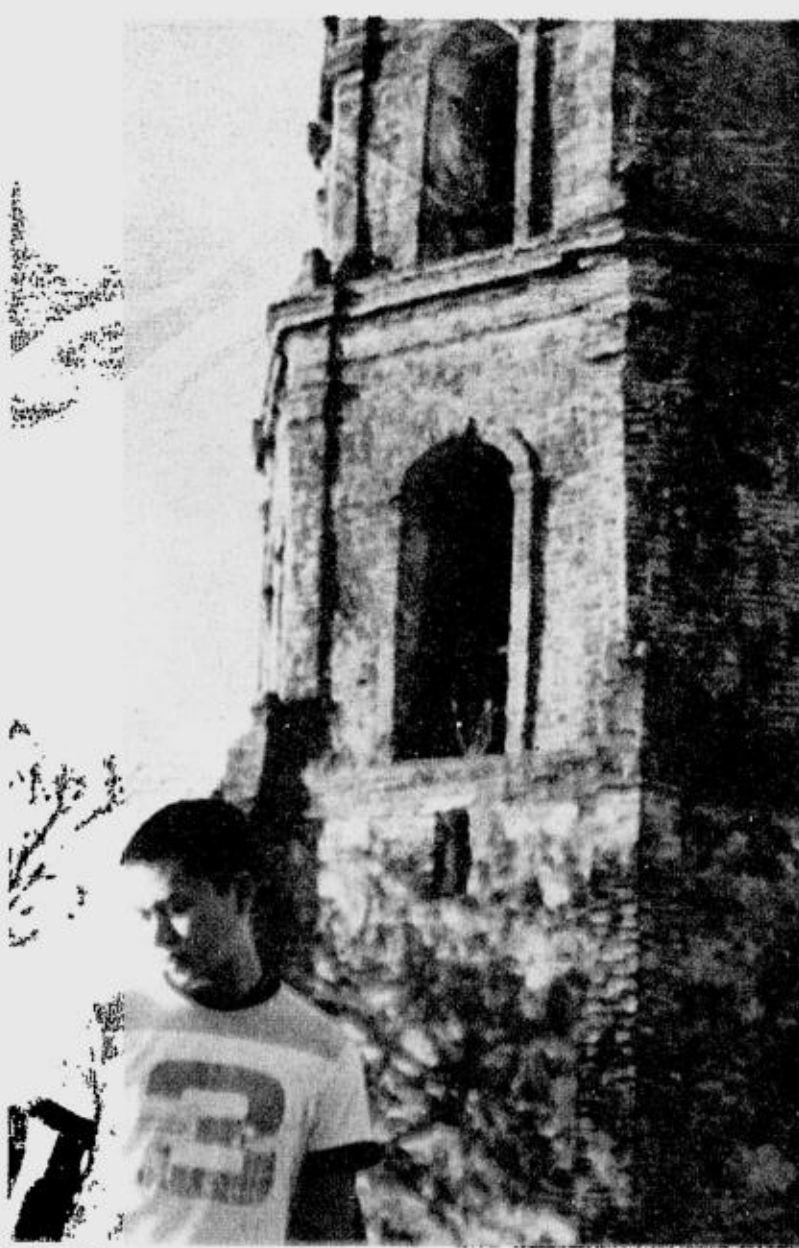
Besides getting a lot of exposure on TV (his artistic video for "Hold On" regularly shown on MTV and Myx), radio (a few singles out in different stations), in print and on the Internet, Rayyn is also nominated in this year's NU Rock Awards. The satisfaction of being an indie artist is overwhelming. "Being an independent artist gives me a chance to be honest with myself and with my music," says Rayyn. He enjoys the freedom and he doesn't regret taking the indie path. "If I could do it all over again, I wouldn't change a thing."

(For more information about Rayyn, visit his website at www.rayyn.com or e-mail info@rayyn.com. His self-titled debut album is currently available at Tower Records, Music One and Radio City.)

Daydream Cycle

A NUMBER of electronica-fused bands have entered the local music scene, but rarely do they live up to listeners' expectations. A few acts sensibly blended fathomable music with drumbeat and sampling plays, hoping to reach a larger audience and break barriers. For Daydream Cycle (DDC), whose music has been branded ambient, putting together a "unique fusion" proved to be better.

"We were just fooling around with Bogs' newly installed loop-based program Acid," says Japs Sergio (Rivermaya's new bassist) of summer 2000. Along with high school buddy Boga Jugo, they played with



RAYYN

the new toy and ended up creating four songs. Feeling something was missing, they invited Kathy Meneses, a friend who writes poetry, to join them. A year later, DDC has managed to release an independent album in between Kathy's work and Bogs' schooling.

Reminiscent of a raw and clattery Massive Attack, DDC's music attempts to combine the live sounds of a band along with drumbeats and vocals, creating an interstellar mood. Various musical influences are noticed throughout the album: Cocteau Twins, Lush, Mouse on Mars, Boards of Canada and 10,000 Maniacs. Although rather slow, the album forms some catchy moments. "My Luscious Star," the album's first track, has an infectious melody that I find myself singing in the middle of the day. Something about Kathy's voice also makes you hum her songs. The last track, "Light it Up," starts out eerily following a slowdown of riffs and drum machine.

"Sobrang hirap!" Japs says of the local indie music scene. Instead of accepting offers from recording companies, they decided to use their own money to produce the album.

Why did they turn down the recording companies? Japs says their music might not cater to everyone. He explains: The rights to songs will belong to the company. With DDC's type of music, the album probably won't sell that much. Eventually, they lose both contract and rights to their music. "So indie is the way for us... Probably the only way," he says. They seem to have made the right choice. A second album is due

next year.

(To order copies of their album, e-mail daydreamcycle@hotmail.com or visit ddcycle.tripod.com.)

Twisted Halo

EVERYONE dreams, but not all strive to achieve them. Vin Dancel did. He pursued his adolescent dreams, resulting into one of today's known acts. In May 1999, Twisted Halo was born out of the songs Dancel had composed early in his life.

"Though his original plan was to record with a revolving cast of musicians, he eventually started recruiting," according to Jason Caballa, who plays the guitars. With Dancel on vocals, Twisted Halo is also composed of Jai Taguibao (bass), Joey Odulio (guitars) and, initially, drummer Richard Cruz (later replaced by Monmon Lopez). The band members are not really new in the scene. Taguibao is from Sugarfree while Cruz is from Put35ka. Both Caballa and Odulio came from Blast Ople.

"A lot of our peers have commented that for a band that has been in existence for only about a year, we have achieved a lot," says Caballa. With original materials, the band has already established a loyal band of listeners in regular gigs and airplay. Caballa says the band shares the passion that enables them to survive in the independent scene.

It took about two months of recording, arranging and mixing at home and in the studio before they came out with their extended play (EP) album. It also helped that they're friends with Eraserheads' Buddy Zabala and Raymund Marasigan, who arranged and produced most of the tracks.

With members coming from different musical backgrounds, Twisted Halo reflects a diversity of influences: Lopez is into metal, Taguibao listens to acid jazz and triphop, while Caballa and Odulio enjoy post punk and new wave. Dancel listens to Radiohead, Jeff Buckley, Soundgarden and Nirvana, which is evident in his songwriting.

The EP album is a six-track recording (with one hidden track). One song, "The Bean Curve," actually reminds me of Shiela and the Insects as it transforms itself into a catchy pop track. The progressive tunes, combined with spoken word of "Untitled #4," catapults itself into a potential hit.

Twisted Halo, like other indie acts, attempts to make a statement. But not all indie bands have its passion and talent.

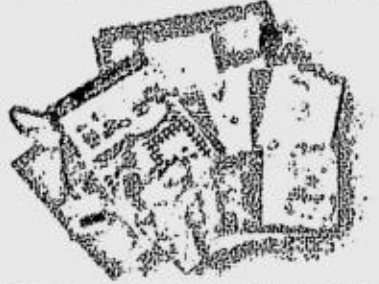
(Twisted Halo will play at Mayrics on Nov. 8, Freedom Bar on Nov. 9 and Phenomena on Nov. 28. To order copies of the EP, e-mail whiteonyellow@yahoo.com. Join their mailing list at twistedhalo@yahoogroups.com.)



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER MY WISHBOX WAVE 89.1

DO YOU WANT TO WIN THIS WONDERFUL GIFT PACK?

It's so easy. All you have to do is fill up this coupon and fax it to WAVE 89.1 at 632-WAVE. All entries for the day will be drawn and winners will be notified via fax or text within the day.



NAME: _____ AGE: _____
ADDRESS: _____
FAX: _____ PHONE: _____
CELL: _____ EMAIL: _____
Turn in to WAVE 89.1 for the Announcement of Daily Winner

Today's prize courtesy of:



HINT: Check out Lifestyle Section - TASTES/DINING-OUT on Thursday, November 8 for a chance to win in Inquirer's My Wishbox.

Awful banks

BY WALTER ANG

WHEN I got victimized by a pick-pocket earlier this year, I had to call two banks to have my ATM cards blocked. I was hoping I wouldn't have too much trouble doing so, but I guess I didn't hope hard enough. I called up Equitable-PCIBank first. The lady (I failed to get her name) who helped me was receptive and very quick. In less than five minutes, my card was blocked. I even asked her if she had the hotline number for another bank and she graciously looked for it, even if she didn't have to. I was very impressed and started feeling better already.

But when I applied for a replacement card at the Soler branch in Binondo, five days had already gone by and it still wasn't ready. I raised my voice and told them I wouldn't leave until they found out what was going on. As the guy in charge was making phone calls to the head office, one of the tellers started scowling (even though she wasn't handling my situation) and banged the phone receiver down in front of me when she also couldn't get through. Then she kept asking me in an acid tone, "Do you need to withdraw? You can withdraw over the counter!" I replied, "That's not the point!"

I waited another week to claim my card. By then, I was sure word had already gotten around the small branch and every single employee was waiting to catch a glimpse of the irrational, demanding client—me. A teller took one look at me, smiled with a knowing look and smugly asked, "Bakit ngayon ka lang? One week na kaming naghihintay. (What took you so long? We've been waiting a week.)"

I kept quiet, claimed my replacement card and left. All banks in the Binondo area are notorious for having awful customer service. They have no queues and people just come in, flop their documents down on the counter and rely on the "I'll come back for it later" system. It's horrible.

Red tape

Metrobank gave me more trouble. I couldn't find the hotline number so I tried my luck with any number I could get from the directory. I explained that I knew I hadn't called the correct department and asked if they could at least give me a number I could call. The guy on the other end of the line wanted me to call the branch (Roosevelt) where the account was opened. He explained that only the Roosevelt branch had the authority to block my ATM card. It was already 5:30 p.m. and I was sure no one would answer my call.

I refused to call the Roosevelt branch and asked if there was any other way. As he was explaining my concerns to his officemates, I overheard a lady saying, "Ay, ayaw ko nang ganyan." In the end, they were finally able to block my card, after all. God only knows why they couldn't just block my card from the beginning instead of telling me to do all sorts of other things.

If you've never experienced being victimized, you have no idea how terrible it feels. No one reports a stolen card for the fun of it. I was already feeling horrible and then I had to get that kind of (non)help from the bank? Even if the employees aren't in charge of blocking cards, basic human decency dictates they should provide extra courtesy to someone who's just been a victim of a crime.

Closed

When I called Metrobank Roosevelt branch manager Flor Kwan to confirm the blocking of



Bank employees should learn courtesy and solicitude from fast-food attendants. After all, we give banks good business

my card and relate my experience, all she uttered was a disinterested, "Okay." No explanations on why they didn't have a centralized card blocking system. Not a smidgen of sympathy or an offer to rectify the situation.

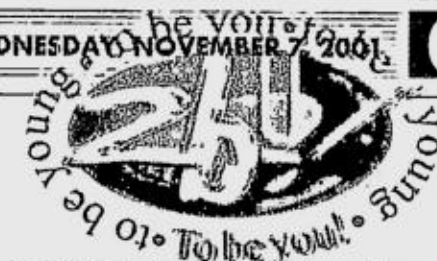
Due to all the trouble they gave me, I decided to close my account. Imagine if I were unfortunate enough to lose my ATM card again! I certainly wouldn't need the trouble they'd certainly give me.

The officer at the bank who entertained me didn't even ask why I was closing my account. The Metrobank Roosevelt branch doesn't care about their depositors enough to try and keep them. I don't care to keep my money with them. In fairness to the bank, however, I have to say their Call Center's assistant manager Lucy Jorayeb was receptive to my complaints and was very apologetic.

I think banks everywhere should hire people who've worked in fast-food outlets. At least they'd be nicer, faster, more courteous and more efficient. They should just hire Human Resource trainers who've worked in the fast-food industry



ILLUSTRATIONS: MANUEL ABRERA



to give better training to their employees. If fast-food employees have to say good morning and smile and be quick on their feet, why can't bank employees? We certainly give them more business!

E-mail the author at waltzang@mail.com

Teen Tees



To see is to believe.

ARTWORK
boutiques

SM Supermalls (SM City - North Edsa • SM City - Fairview • SM Southmall - Las Piñas • SM City - Bacoor • SM City - Cebu • SM City - Iloilo) Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall • Robinson's Place - Bacolod • Tutuban Center Mall • Festival Mall (Fairview Alabang)
Soon to open: SM City - Davao • Robinson's Place - Metro East (Cainta) • Robinson's Place - Iloilo

At the children's shoes department

QUIAPO • MAKATI • CUBAO • HARRISON • NORTH EDSA • STA. MESA • ORTIGAS • FAIRVIEW • MANILA • PAMPANGA • CEBU

Fresh from J. Walter Thompson

DON'T WALK AWAY FROM A GREAT IDEA

The likes of Alfred Hitchcock, Muhammad Ali, Albert Einstein and Martin Luther King are often described as "troublemakers...round pegs in square holes." Yet the same people who rock the boat are the ones who propel the ship of mankind forward.

For most of us, the status quo is a comfort zone. But for people in key positions, it's a blind spot that prohibits them from discovering new things. That's why the famous physicist Tom Hirschfield warns, "If you don't ask 'why this?' often enough, people will ask 'why you?'"

But we shouldn't avoid innovation for fear of ridicule. A silly idea might just prove to be the seed of a great revolution. As Mark Twain once remarked, "the person with an idea is

a crank until the idea succeeds."

At J. Walter Thompson Manila, one of the country's most successful communication agencies, radical thinking is institutionalized through the program *JWT Fresh*. Past achievements notwithstanding, JWT Manila continues to search for new methods, tools, and ideas.

The agency already has a reputation for creating brand leaders. This year, they can lay claim to at least ten new business wins and some of the top honors in the Creative Guild's Ad of the Year.

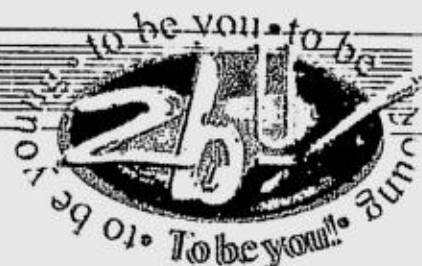
Still, JWT Manila's hunger persists. In fact, the agency's vision is called *Magical Journeys*, and appropriately, theirs is a journey without a finish line.

"Everything that can be invented has been invented."

Charles Duell
Commissioner on Patents
1899

JWT Fresh

robert.labayan@jwt.com



The sem that was and good things to come

BY CHRISTINE MAY D. ICAMINA
26U! Correspondent

MOST students have recently been caught between a semestral hangover and an anticipation of the sembreak (also known as "no allowance holiday").

Free from the clutches of school, we asked some students to wrack their brains in order to recall something that happened in the first semester that they would rather forget. (Yes, we demanded them to reminisce about something they would want to forget for eternity.)

And to make school look less of a miserable experience because minus all the graded work, school can be worth looking forward to as well, we asked them to equal—if not surpass—those amnesia-worthy first sem moments with what they are actually awaiting this coming sem.

I'd like to forget that time when we worked for a newspaper project from 4 p.m. to 6 a.m. the next day only to find out that the day we

were going to have the paper printed, the diskettes were messed up. Two of our groupmates had to go back to our groupmate's place in Magallanes all the way from Ateneo just to save the project. What I'm looking forward to is the end of my junior year. He!he!—**Lou Albano, 20**

During our registration for the first sem, I accompanied my friend Lyn to ask for Vince Hizon's autograph only to find out on the first day of classes that he was my seatmate in one of my subjects. This coming sem, I'm looking forward to my breaks so that I could be with my friends as we boy watch.—**Chade los Angeles, 19**

[I'd like to forget] that time when I was interviewed by a news channel about new courses for universities and I said "I agree so we won't be limited by plain courses like writing," which was a silly thing to say since I am an English major. I am looking forward to having something to do when I wake up because I'm tired of being

idle.—**Mika Sarmiento, 19**

I'd like to forget that time when a certain interviewee we had for our research totally dissed us. We felt so embarrassed because other people were looking. Right then and there we were so shocked and we couldn't defend ourselves. All we could do is to rant about the incident when we got back to the car. I'm looking forward to eating [UP Diliman] Casaa food again next sem. It may not be much but it tends to grow on you after a while.—**Olivia Reyes, 20**

I got kicked out of my course [last sem] but now I'm hoping to become part of the Dean's List this sem.—**Bong Esguerra, 20**

I want to forget [that time when] *nasunog ang kamay ko ng bunsen burner. Mild lang pero ang tanga ng pagkakamali ko.* I'm looking forward to having more interesting classmates. [It] wouldn't hurt if they're cute.—**Anna Aniag, 20**

I'd like to forget the loss of two



ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

schoolmates who, one time or another, I have spent time with. It's sad to think that these people who are only my age have passed away early in their lives. I am looking forward to bonding sessions with my friends from the usual movie to out-of-town trips because my

friends and I are counting down our school days before graduation.—**King Ramos, 21**

We had this project wherein we had to submit a CD. Our professor didn't clarify his standards, so even if we worked very hard for the

project, we didn't receive the grade that we really deserve. I'm looking forward to the implementation of our OCW project because we really want to contribute to the communication between the OCWs and their loved ones, narrow-down the digital divide, and for national development.—**Claire Navarro, 21**

I'd like to get over the Ateneo upset. I'm not a [UAAP] fan anymore but it still hit me in one way or another. I'm looking forward to both [Ateneans and Lasallites] moving on after the match. Besides, it was just a game, and one game cannot determine who really is on top.—**Mike Bab, 21**

In one of my subjects [Experimental Psychology] last sem, for five weeks straight, we had to submit an eight-12-page paper every week. And it wasn't just an ordinary paper. We had to do so much research in the library for each paper. One thing I'm looking forward to is Spanish 2 class because I love Spanish—*hindi ako nerd ha*.—**Meg Serranilla, 20**

Running takes a lot of stamina and discipline

BY ANNE LUISA E. VILLARICO
26U! Correspondent

IM not a figure-conscious girl. I don't give much thought to workout because I only weigh 91 pounds at 5'2". The sports that I play are either mind games or virtual sports. In short, I'm no wannabe jock.

So when my good friend JC invited me to join a 5-km charity run with her, I thought "Me, join a marathon? I don't even jog." I only jogged in my PE classes back in college (and I usually cheated by taking shortcuts). I knew running would definitely subject my puny muscles to physical torture. But due to her constant prodding, I took the risk and gave it a shot. My theory was that running would be easier for me because I was already thin, therefore it would be easier for me to move around. And, hey, I had never been in a marathon before. It would be fun! But it turned out to be not so easy.

My first 5-km run that took place just a month ago was a painful, agonizing experience. To describe it as exhausting would be an understatement. It felt like the introductory experience of the pains of hell. I regretted that I did not take seriously all the warnings from experiences of non-sprinters who had been in marathons before ("Baka ka ma-ospital sa gagawin mo. Baka mabali ang mga buto mo."). I almost passed out during the race.

I committed a big mistake by not having any training prior to the race. Mentally, I was prepared but not my muscles, joints and all the parts of my body that suffered the consequences the next day. I was expecting that I would get tired and look haggard but not to the point that I would have a hard time moving, sitting and climbing the stairs. I walked like a year-old

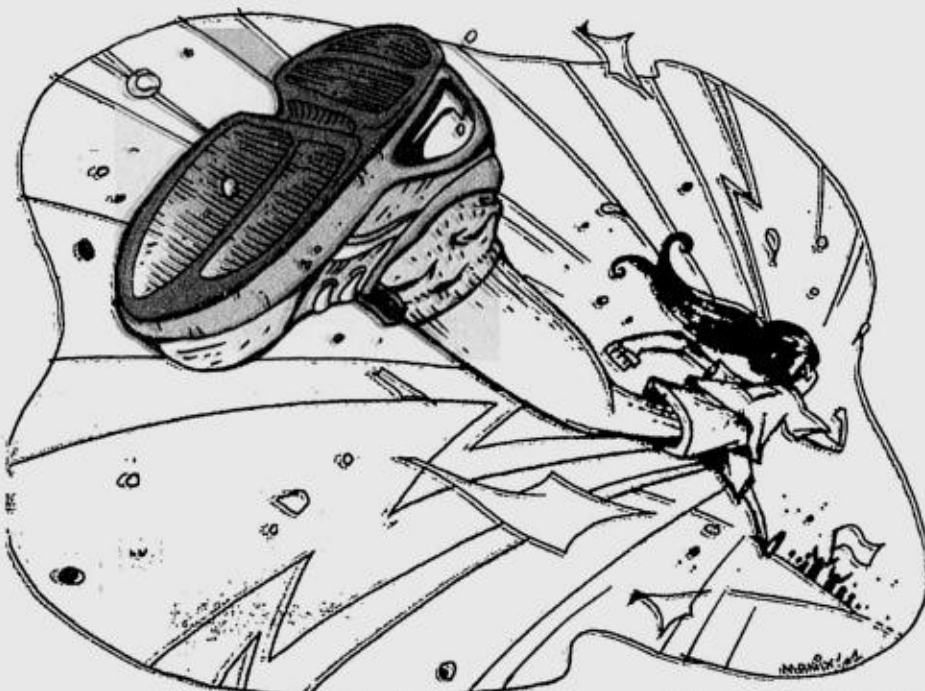


ILLUSTRATION: MANUEL ABRERA

baby learning his first footsteps.

Mind you, a 5-km race is no joke, especially for people like me whose only exercise is the daily trip from my house to the bus stop. It is equivalent to two rounds of the QC Elliptical Circle. During my first run, I really felt like a broken tire. I was breathing through my mouth, my hair was a mess, I was sweating profusely and I could barely smile from extreme exhaustion.

Adrenalin rush

I was overwhelmed by the sudden adrenalin rush that I burst with full speed at the onset only to end up walking 85 percent of the entire distance because I was so worn out. But I clocked 57 minutes. Not bad for a first-time runner though.

If you think that I had had enough, well I signed up for my second 5-km

footrace. And I wasn't being a masochist. I just wanted to run again. To prepare myself for the run, I mustered enough courage to attend at least two taeko sessions and toning session. Venue: CCP. Time: 6 a.m. Bib No. 5248. My objective: To finish the race and beat my earlier record with the slightest damage on my frail exterior as much as possible.

The runners were an odd mix of kids (for the 3-km run), teenagers, women and men of all ages (some old enough to be your grandpa). For 5-km participants, the race route started at the PICC grounds, then turned left at the Roxas Boulevard.

As expected, others zoomed like a rocket-propelled engine right after the opening shot tick off, while I and the other marathoners just, uhm, jogged.

Unlike my previous run where I jogged, walked, sprinted and walked again, I managed to maintain my jogging

pace all throughout the race. Also, I didn't have to imagine different scenarios to keep myself going where before I pictured myself chasing a snatcher who took my wallet or, for a faster pace, I imagined being pursued by a rapist who had never seen a deodorant before. The skyscrapers at the backdrop served as my guideposts as to how far I had gone.

To be a serious marathoner

Water stations were available every 2 km. I tried not to drink the water being distributed to runners because of the way it was done. Water came right from a huge water container and a *tabo* was used to serve it. The "water" guys, who should attend a seminar about proper sanitation, just poured the water into the plastic cups even if two of their fingers were submerged in the water. But I got really thirsty midway the race so rather than suffer heat stroke, I painstakingly drank with eyes closed the cold water from a plastic cup that I hoped was cleaner than the other plastic cups. I got re-fueled once again.

It takes a lot of determination, stamina, strength and discipline to be a serious marathoner.

Those who finished way ahead of us were professional athletes who had already competed in various international running competitions. Just by looking at their well-trimmed frame, you would see that they had dedicated all their lives to running.

I sighed in relief when I saw the blinking spotlight in front of the CCP, a sign that I was almost there. I only made a mad dash when I was already near the finish line. The taeko lessons did help. The muscle pains were tolerable. Not much strain on my feet and I did not run out of air. Running time: 49 minutes. With no shortcuts!

E-mail the author at luifox@corporatedirtbag.com

Starting from scratch

BY MARGOT TAN

NOW that the long-awaited sembreak you've been pining for has screechingly come to a halt, you look back with pouty lips and reassess the things you've done and the things you've failed to do. Those books you swore you'd read years ago still remain lying around the house, crisp and unturned. That pair of denims you swore you'd finally fit into seems to have shrunk again for the nth time; the buttons are popping out as you curse your vile *labandera*. While some of us spent the break bingeing, snoozing and scratching already massive bottoms against the comfy couch across the television, a handful of students from UP Diliman chose to take the road less traveled—they worked, slaved in front of laptops and started a new organization.

The birth of UP-HPAIR

The UP-Harvard Project for Asian and International Relations is the brainchild of Senen Pineda and Grace Vera Cruz, both seniors who took a working interest in this young and growing international network organization. With much enthusiasm and idealism, these two visionaries handpicked and grouped together a team of students from the School of Economics to jumpstart the hustle and bustle of starting from scratch. Creating a new organization, especially in UP, is certainly no joke. You'd have to find your own sweet way through lots of tangleing red tape, make tons of letters and chop down forests of trees for paper, and talk to regularly missing people about rules, regulations and guidelines. Now we know why the last time some prick ever bothered to start an org in our school parades around the campus with silvered tresses and jiggly Jell-O arms.

Aimed at facilitating dialogue and exchange among students from all over the globe to address the most important political, economic and social issues, this baby is as serious as it could get. We're talking about international summits with presidents, prime ministers, CEOs and other superhuman creatures in suits as speakers. It doesn't just sound ambitious; it is ambitious...and it's for real. The 10th HPAIR global conference, the latest one, was co-hosted by the National University of Singapore. To give you a better picture of what this is all about, the theme last August was "Asia and the knowledge economy: Opportunities for progress" More than just stuffing know-it-all's in one room, HPAIR clubs also attempt to create venues for educational and cultural ties among who they call the world's future leaders. Translation: Just like any other organization around the corner, it comes with the coveted mating perk. You could come, join and find your potential mate.

As of press time, only two local HPAIR clubs have been established—one at the Ateneo de Manila University and another at the University of Asia & the Pacific. But with a recently ratified constitution and a band of selected applicants busy finishing papers and wondering what the hell they're getting themselves into, it appears that a third has come into fruition. Look out world, here they come.

E-mail the author at magsygirl@hotmail.com

World-class DJs bring the Tent down at 'Planet Love'

HALLOWEEN night was definitely a treat for partygoers as parties was happening in all corners of Metro Manila. Joey@92.3 FM and NBC Entertainment continue to be at the forefront of Manila's party scene by staging this year's most massive All Hallows Eve party—"Planet Love @ the Tent" held at the NBC Tent at the Fort.

Leading the cast of international DJs who rocked "Planet Love @ the Tent" was DJ John Robinson, who is one of the best DJs in Asia and a legend in the dance music community with seven successful solo albums and No. 1 hits as an artist, producer and remixer. Also set to put the crowd into the groove was Japan's DJ Koutaru and

Manila's pride, DJ Robert Villaluz of 78 Orange. Backing the DJs up is Japanese Visual Jockey Yuru who pumped up to crowd even more with his cutting-edge computer-generated graphics.

Partygoers were treated to free beer and food and a special free trip to Tokyo. VIP passes to Planet Love awaited the winner of

the best in costume, which went to Allana Montelibana who came as Queen Amidala. The huge auditorium of the Tent was filled with trick or treaters and the party rocked on until 4 a.m. With parties like these happening all over town, party-lovers couldn't ask for more on a freaky Halloween night.

Tesa Arcilla

If the shoe fits

COMMON knowledge: a well-balanced diet in moderate portions and regular aerobic exercise help us keep fit as well as control our weight. Most people exercise for the sole purpose of losing weight. For that to work, one needs an exercise she enjoys so she can stick with it and see the desired noticeable results in six to eight weeks.

Fact: Brisk walking and running/jogging are the exercises with the most success rate because you can do it anywhere and you can always find time for that. These are also inexpensive because all you have to invest in are a durable pair of runners. Unfortunately, most women tend to treat buying these shoes as afterthoughts. They either buy cheap ones or one that appeals to their eyes or their brand-conscious nature totally disregards the necessary qualifications that will make all the difference in their performance.



Kinny Salas

The checklist: What should one look for in a running/brisk walking shoe?

- Check for adequate room at the top by pressing your thumb into the shoe just above your longest toe. Your thumb should fit between the end of your toe and the top of the shoe.
- Check for adequate room at the widest part of your foot. The shoe shouldn't be tight, but your foot shouldn't slide around or you will acquire blisters.
- The heel should fit snugly into the rear of the shoe and should not

slide up or down as you slide or run.

- The upper portion should fit snugly and hold your foot securely, but it should not irritate or press too tightly on any area of your foot.
- Take the shoes for a test—walk, march and run around in it in the store so you can feel the shoes in action. Make sure to refer to the list of qualifications on the numbers above. Cut this portion and take it with you if necessary.

I was offered by two relatively unknown brands to test their running shoes during my brisk walking workouts. What they had in common was that they both took pride in their shock-absorbing factors which significantly reduces injury and leg and foot discomfort brought about by using the generic cheap sneaker. They also gave me a half-size bigger than my regular shoe.

Saucony, style 1117-2: The shoes fit snugly and were very flattering to the feet. My feet did not look boxy, huge or extra long,



ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

but well-formed and narrow. The padding was enough to protect my feet. It fulfilled qualifications on the shopper guide above and it withstood all my pavement pounding. On moss-covered ground, though, there was minimal trouble with traction. I just wish they would make this style with no shoelace as mine would unravel.

Another pair was provided for testing on my friend whose feet were unlike my long narrow ones—hers are wide with bunions. They gave her a wide-fit shoe that suited her purpose fine. She used them for walking on the treadmill as well as the road. They suited her in qualifications as well. She had no complaints with traction. Price: P3,000.

New Balance, style WX892GR: This was definitely more masculine in style. Appearance-wise, it also made my feet look a lot bigger. They come in wide fits as well so these may be the answer for people who have wide feet and experience discomfort during workout. It has more traction and a different shaped arch that prevented my ankle from twisting awkwardly, which I am most prone to. My feet also survived the stomping and running without making my feet ache. It met criteria of shopper's guide (1, 3, 4 and 5). I had minimal sliding of feet inside shoe probably because the size was right—they sent me a D width. Aside from that everything was great. Price: P2,995.

For any questions, or products you want to road test, write to Makeover 911, PDI Lifestyle or fax at 897-4805

Five days in business school

BY LESLIE ANN TAN

THIS was the tagline used in promoting the Unilever Business Week (UBW) in our university. As I joined hundreds of hopefuls, going through the rigors of interviews and group simulation activities, I wondered if it was all worth it. Lucky for me, I had a chance to find out.

Oct. 22-26 would forever be marked as a red-letter week in the calendars of 40 young, talented students—and in the calendars of so many more people from Unilever, who had worked for six months to ensure the success of this annual activity. It was a whole week when we were taken out of our normal daily lives, billeted in a five-star hotel and had a jam-packed schedule.

The people

On that first day when I was on my way to the hotel, I quickly reviewed in my mind who I knew were coming. Of course, excited as I may be of the week ahead, I didn't want to spend it all by my lonesome. Hmm...let's see, I know four more from the UP School of Economics were coming. Also, my best friend from high school would be there. Ok, I guess I'd probably spend the week with them. When I arrived, checked in, and went down for the breakfast buffet, a lot of other familiar faces were streaming in. Great! I later found out that of the 40 participants, 14 were from UP Diliman, 13 from Ateneo, five from DLSU, three from UA&P, two from San Beda, one from Assumption, one from UST and one from as far as University of San Carlos Cebu. Of course, these are just mere statistics. In the course of the week, these numbers have taken face and character and I often found myself in the company of new friends.

Activities

If you've been to a lot of seminars, you get to a point where you know almost every icebreaker, or somehow have an inkling of how an activity is going to take shape. Well, I must say that the UBW defied the odds. They had all sorts of creative, crazy ideas and we're all willing to do it. They could make you sit through lectures, amazing videos, and you just couldn't help but sit up, listen and learn. From Day One, we met the very amiable CEO plus the complete board of directors. One of the organizers commented, "It's so hard to set an appointment with even just one of them, and yet you have them all here today. They really take time out to be in the UBW every year." Once, in the middle of talking about Selecta, their ice cream cart just entered the ballroom (with the telltale jingle of course!) and they gave out free ice cream! Another time, they decided to adopt the theme of "The Matrix." Aside from the music, all the speakers were dressed in black, wearing shades while trying to peel away the myths (the matrix) from the truths (the real world) regarding consumer development. And we had a sports activity wherein we tried to deliver a perfectly decorated egg within 12 minutes, which had to travel a course under extreme pressure—making its way through cannons, bullet trains, a web and conveyor belts. All these in simulation of a production process.

We also had plant tours plus a real honest-to-goodness fieldwork! Now, that is quite a story because armed only with a sheet of guide questions, we were asked on how to deal with a consumer and left to our own devices on how to actually derive a consumer insight. I and my partner were assigned to a working single female. In the beginning, we made light of it by saying "Chikahin lang natin 'yan!" And we did! In between the laughter we were able to worm out what we needed to find out.

For three nights in a row, we strove for personal development. My group knew the right ambience—the "stands" in the Republic of Malate (yup, we went there!), the ballroom basked in dim lights with mattresses plus pillows, and then out in the garden by the hammocks, which had a magnificent view of Manila Bay.

These were the sessions we had, but off-session, there was hustle and bustle. For two nights, we stayed up really late trying to come up with out-of-the-box, market-changing proposals in existing divisions (home care, personal care, ice cream, foods, industrials) to present to the board of directors on the last day. And wow, did we think out-of-the-box!

Word from others

Of course, I've realized that everyone of us experienced the UBW in quite different ways. Here are some comments from my peers when I asked what experience in UBW they enjoyed the most.

I commend the UBW for its sense of balanced formation. Not only did we get training for professional skills, we were also given exposure to team building and most importantly, self-development. "The Brand Called You" activity is more than just a breather; it actually communicates Unilever's core values such as respect and continuous learning and growth. At the end of the day, it's more than just about the work; it's all about people.—Stephanie Lim, Ateneo de Manila University

What I enjoyed most is the camaraderie that has developed between us participants, brought about by the different activities throughout the UBW. Five daring-to-win proposals came out of the syndicate work and this is so because of the camaraderie that led to synergy and teamwork for the groups.—Patrick Nogoy, Ateneo de Manila University

I enjoyed the board presentation because it was the summary of the rest of the week's activities. We all underwent the pressure and excitement to deliver the most profitable, sustainable

and market-changing concept. It was the manifestation of teamwork and who-dares-wins attitude.—Allan Ticatic, University of the Philippines

UBW was everything I expected—and more! I especially liked the "Fast-Pak" and "R.E.D." activities where we got to learn, bond with other delegates and have fun at the same time. "The Brand Called You" activity was also great, made me reflect and know myself better.—Dorothy Jane Dec, Ateneo de Manila University

It was the challenge to do your best. In an

environment with a lot of talented and great people, I think each of us was challenged to contribute and show themselves at their best. We each helped to challenge and inspire each other to greater heights. No backing out. Who dares wins.—Mark Alvin Poa, De La Salle University

At the end of the day

At the end of the day, what I found truly amazing about the Unilever Business Week is how it pushed us to the limits. From Day One, they have challenged us: who dares to win? I

know from personal experience that I did some things in the UBW in front of distinguished guests, which I never thought I could do. I know that I would otherwise feel absurd to pull all-nighters working on a market-changing proposal when we had a very comfortable bed in our own room. But during that time, it was the most natural thing to do. UBW has instilled in us that passion, that drive to win even in friendly competitions. At the end of the day, I believe that we all dared to win; and in daring, we won.

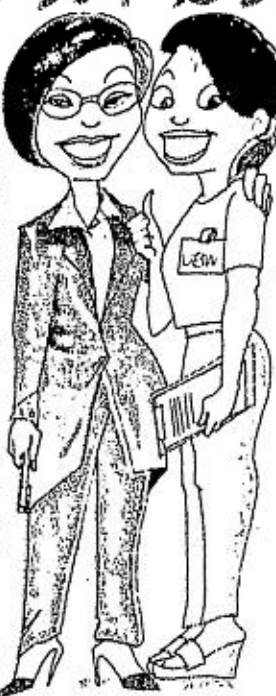


ILLUSTRATION:
ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

SPECIAL YEAR-END

MANNEQUIN

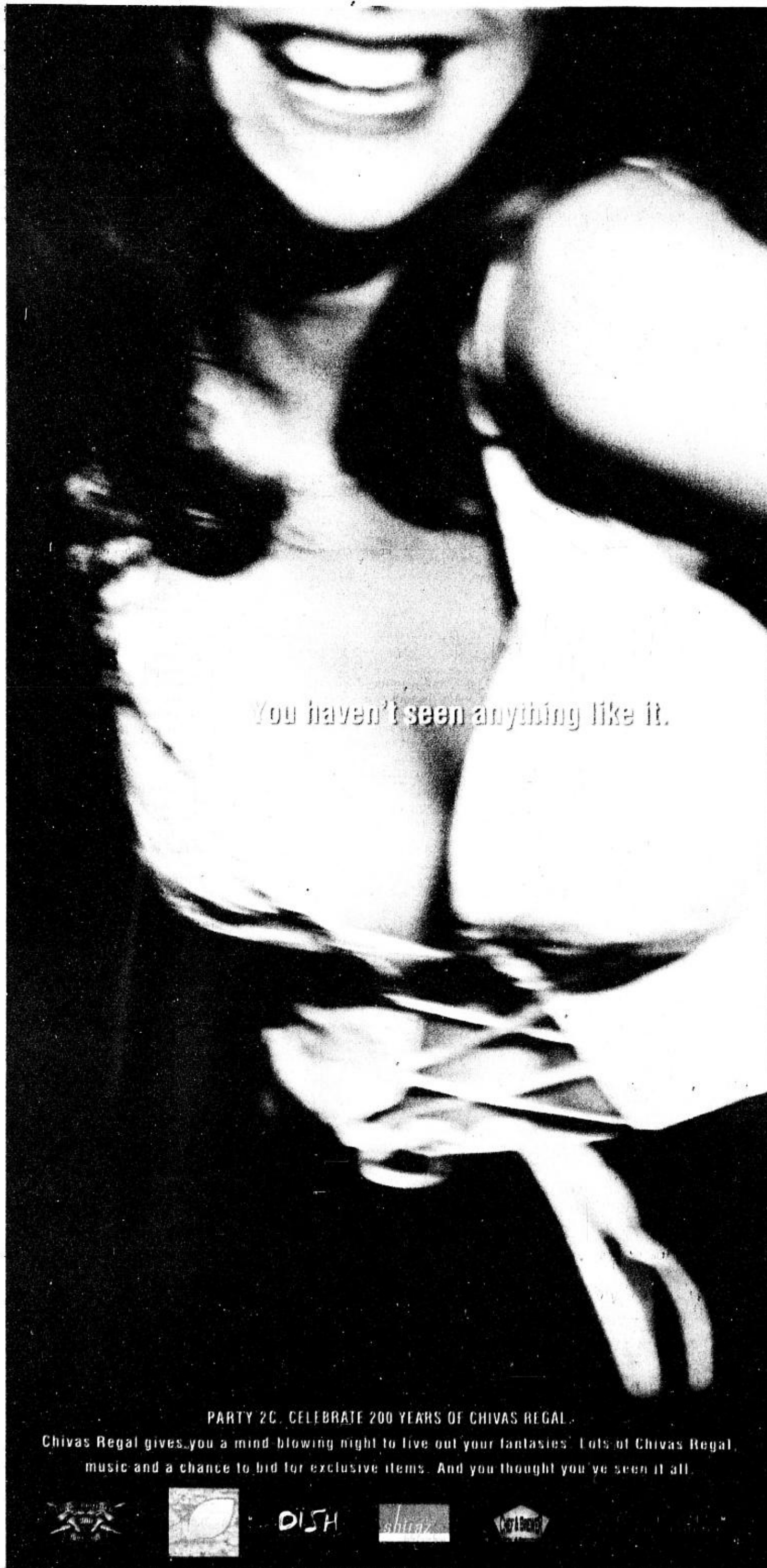
Sale!

UP TO
50% OFF
FIRST COME
FIRST SERVED



WENCESCO
ENTERPRISES

TEL. 7240346 • 7246802 • 7251170 / FAX (632) 721-8203



You haven't seen anything like it.

when
you
know



PARTY 20. CELEBRATE 200 YEARS OF CHIVAS REGAL.

Chivas Regal gives you a mind blowing night to live out your fantasies. Lots of Chivas Regal, music and a chance to bid for exclusive items. And you thought you've seen it all.



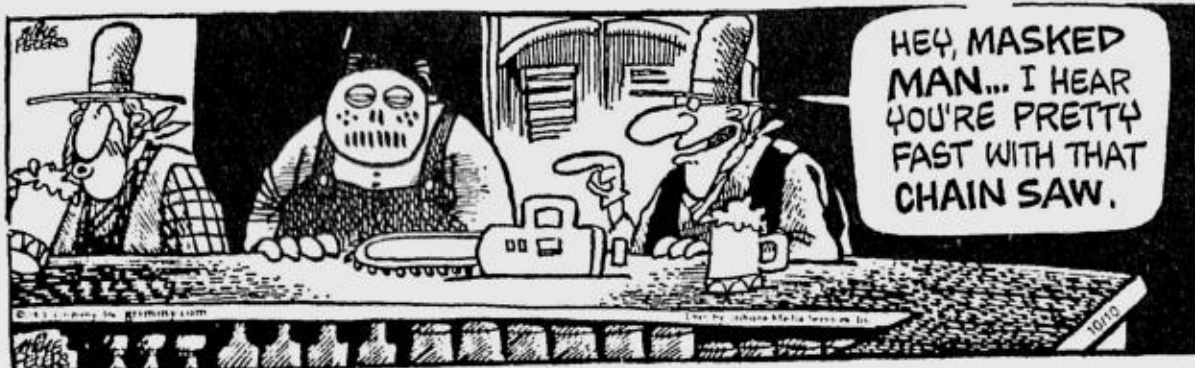
DISH



Bid for a personal holiday, trophy dates, rare finds or 15 minutes of fame at Chef and Brewer on Nov. 9.

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS



ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER



SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY



BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT



HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Billy Graham, Joan Sutherland, Joni Mitchell, Johnny Rivers, King Kong Bundy
Happy Birthday: You'll be a powerhouse this year. Your ability to take charge will benefit you in group encounters. Your relentless nature will be feared by opponents and praised by your followers. The greater your vision, the more you'll achieve. Your numbers: 1, 3, 5, 28, 33, 49

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Slow down to smell the flowers. Your biggest problem is that no one can keep up with your fast pace. Creative hobbies or physical activities will help you relax.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Friends or relatives may try to interfere in your personal life. You are in a far better position to help yourself. Spend time with a special someone.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Your emotional whims may be hard to take. If you neglect your share of chores at home or at work, problems will erupt. Just do the work and move on.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't take everything you hear to heart today. Tactical people may upset you, but don't bother to retaliate. It's best to keep a low profile.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Follow your intuition in setting priorities. Someone may make unwarranted demands. Calm him or her down by offering legitimate suggestions, but don't console someone who isn't willing to make changes.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Take better care of yourself to avoid allergies, headaches and minor mishaps. Don't take on more than you can handle or you may end up being careless.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Your peers will appreciate you today. Making worthwhile contributions to fund-raising groups is fine, but don't go over your budget to impress others. This is a crucial time financially.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Today requires give and take. You may be determined to have your way. Don't be surprised if your partner is just as intent. Try to compromise.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You'll be daydreaming about distant places and lively adventures today. You will do best if you are traveling for business or pleasure. Communications with authority figures may not go as well as you had hoped.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Today is not about you. You need to make time for a parent or grandparent who may require help sorting out financial papers and legal documents. Your patience will be rewarded.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Be prepared to listen to all sides of a story before making any judgments. Your insight will be greatly appreciated by those caught up in the melodrama.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You may feel that an authoritative figure is treating you poorly, but be aware that insecurity may be the problem. To ease the situation, go about your own business.

Birthday Baby: You are entertaining and quick to take action, which will always draw a response. Your demonstrative manner will separate you from the crowd.

A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA



PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR



SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA



GARAPATA BLOOD

BY JOHN PAUL/BENG/MANIX



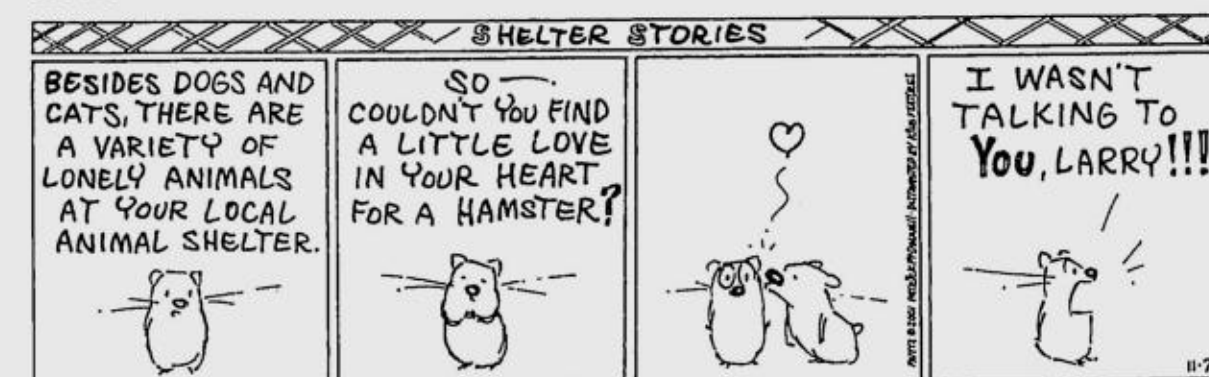
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON



MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL



HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER



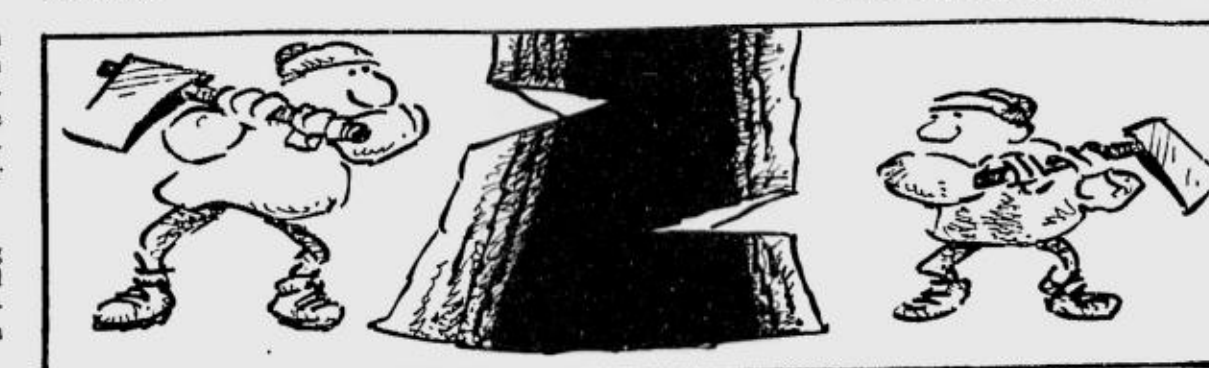
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO



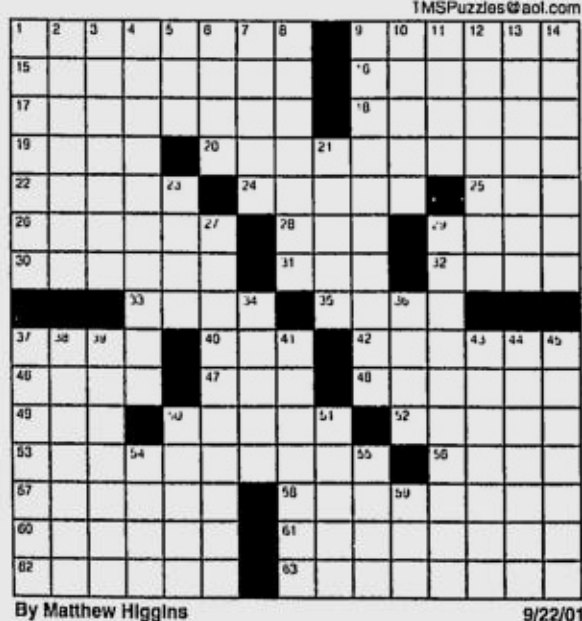
TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBING



DAILY CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- Most circumspect
 - Daisy relatives
 - Scientific investigation
 - Pick's partner?
 - Setting for "Hamlet"
 - Plunder at sea
 - Coagulate
 - Small fish container
 - ... looking at you, kid
 - Equals
 - Exploit
 - Trick into difficulty
 - Doctors' org.
 - Solidities
 - Opening word?
 - Steve Martin song, "King ..."
 - British pianist Myra
 - Sawbucks
 - Coating of ice
 - Military installation
 - H. Rider Haggard novel
 - Petroleum industry executive
 - Furrows
 - Charged particle
 - Hardy's returnee
 - Levin or Gershwin
 - Castle defenders
 - Tennis star Monica
 - Commercial
 - Torn apart
 - Illinois city
 - Bearing
 - Actress Donahue
 - Put in jeopardy
 - Hinders
 - Reels
- DOWN**
- Christmas displays
 - Greek



By Matthew Higgins Concord, NH

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER



- SPOT SUES FLEAS**
YOKE ANTI LINGO
NORM TANG ANGER
CHAPTER ANDVERSE
HEM RON
SPRAIN ODOR TWO
LYING ANON WHIT
ALLTHEFINEPRINT
TOES LAOS HENCE
FEND CORN SINKER
SOP SEA
BETWEENTHELINES
RAWER AHAM DODO
ISAAC TILL OVAL
GESTE ONLY LAME
- 39 Like new-moon nights
 41 Tempts
 43 Travel allowance
 44 Emma Peel, for one
 45 Western homesteaders
 50 Main house on an estate
 51 Bias
 54 Movie: pref.
 55 "The Ring of the Nibelung" character
 59 Scrap of cloth for cleaning

Big SIM discounts...
Big bonus credits with just one call...



Our Big Holiday Surprise for you!

It's a merry, merry Christmas season indeed when you buy a new GlobeXplore SIM pack, Prepaid Plus SIM or phonekit. Aside from the P300 prepaid credits you've always enjoyed, a big P150 bonus value is all yours, just by making a call right away.

Here's more! Get as much as a big 20% discount on your Prepaid SIM pack. That means buying a GlobeXplore SIM for a more affordable P790 and a regular SIM for only P590!

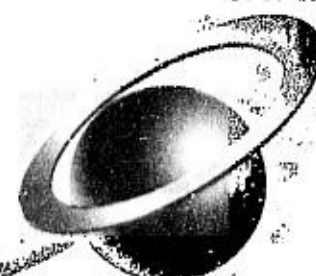
It's Globe Handyphone's way of getting you together more often with more loved ones this Christmas!

Promo period: November 4 to December 31, 2001

Here's how to get your bonus:	
Make your call between:	Receive your P150 bonus value on:
November 4-14	November 15
November 15-29	November 30
November 30-December 14	December 15
December 15-29	December 30
December 30-31	January 2, 2002

A text message confirming your bonus credit will be sent on the dates indicated above. Bonus credit, however, will not extend the expiration period of your Prepaid SIM card.

Globe
 HANDYPHONE
Prepaid Plus



POWER BEYOND LIMITS

POWERMAX
ULTRA HEAVY DUTY

ISO 9002

MAX Mura...
MAX Tumatagall!

ECO-FRIENDLY • LONG LASTING • NO MERCURY ADDED • NO LEAKAGE

Also available **ULTRA ALKALINE**

WEDNESDAY,
NOVEMBER 7, 2001

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

LIFESTYLE

DUNKIN' DONUTS
COFFEE
of the GO!

P24



"IT'S not easy being green."



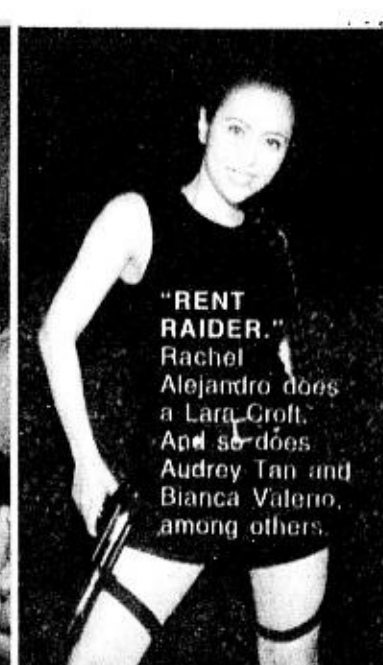
POCAHONTAS at Ayala



POISONED
Ivy entangled
with Venom



2BU'S CHOICE.
Diagon Alley's personal
shopper Jenni Epperson



"RENT
RAIDER."
Rachel
Alejandro does
a Lara Croft.
And so does
Audrey Tan and
Bianca Valero,
among others.

2BU'S HALLOWEEN HOP

Thriller eve

IT'S close to midnight, and something evil's lurking in the dark. Under the moonlight, you see a sight that almost stops your heart. You try to scream, but terror takes the sound before you make it. You start to freeze as horror logs you right between the eyes. You're paralyzed... Hmmm, somebody is starting to sing.

At first glance, this year's Halloween haze might seem dizzying, what with the myriad of costumed events happening all around town—from DJ events to mad hatter's bashes, private dinners and daybreak chill-outs. Add to that the cool night's weather plus a full, full moon, and what have you got? A thrilling All Hallows Eve with the right mix of glam and gore!

My howling night started at the core of the Ayala Center, where the city's coven of creatures gathered at the "Witches and Wizards Ball," that MTV-and-My-Globe hipster haunt parade, which I organized in the middle of Glorietta.

Early on during the day, I saw how the mall was transformed magically by design wizard Jun Jun Ablaza—giving the place a Harry Potter Hogwarts meets Sleepy Hollow meets Dracula's castle kind of feel. An Edwardian (as in "Scissorhands") garden greeted guests upon entry. Maple trees surrounded the venue as candelabras lined the stage with a giant altar on the center—where a "black" ceremony was to take place.

Parade

The ritual saw a procession of guests, ghetto and ghoulishly fabulous in their costumes, from designer creations to "make-your-own" finds from the baul. This year's lot exuded much creativity. "Some of the costumes were really amazing!" said designer Inno Sotto, one of the judges of the costume contest.

Rajo Laurel created a gigantic canary creation of yellow tulle (all 600 yards of it) for Tessa Prieto-Valdes and deconstructed a suit for Patrick Reyno, who came as Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, among other characters. Leah Puyat used her Inno gown and came as a dead bride, while I came as Peter Pan, thanks to Michele Sison's handiwork and Henri Calayag's magical fingers.

Most impressive was style columnist Jenni Epperson, who came as Harry Potter. She best pulled it off by sheer attitude and wit.

Others opted to be more daring, coming only in body paint. I found model and MTV VJ finalist Mich Astudillo quite marvelous—she used toy snakes (the



Tim
Yap

ones you find in kiddie parties) and stuck it onto her head—voilà Valentina! Style file Joanna Suarez got an old gown and attached the bats that adorned their gate to her dress and put on gory

THRILLER/p.2



I WILL FOLLOW HIM.
Lyn Ching turns motherly.

PHOTOS BY EDDIE BOY ESCUDERO, TAMMY DAVID
AND TIM YAP

Last Wednesday, magical creatures came out to party with the 'witches and wizards' of this world



KISS-MARKED. Hungry rockers on a Friday's binge.

WHAT'S ON AT ROBINSONS

Live!

Catch the comely songbird as she performs cuts from her latest album by Universal Records.

November 9, Friday, 4PM
Orosa Atrium
Robinsons Place Manila

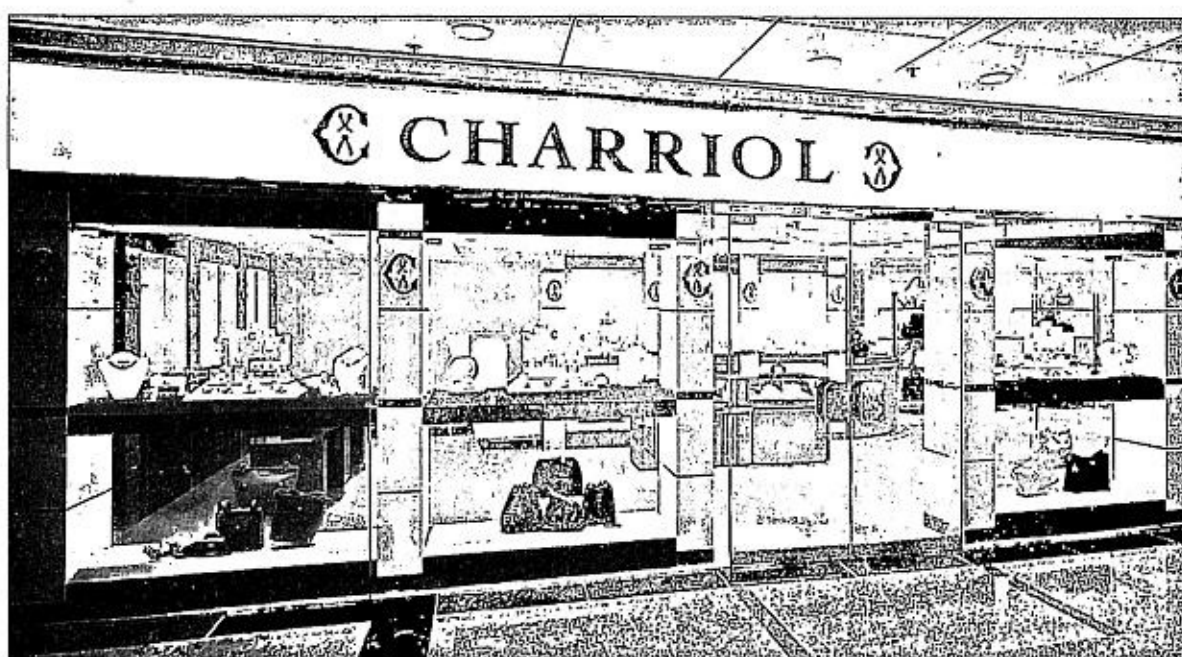
November 17, Saturday, 4PM
Fountain Area
Robinsons Place Imus

ROBINSONS Malls

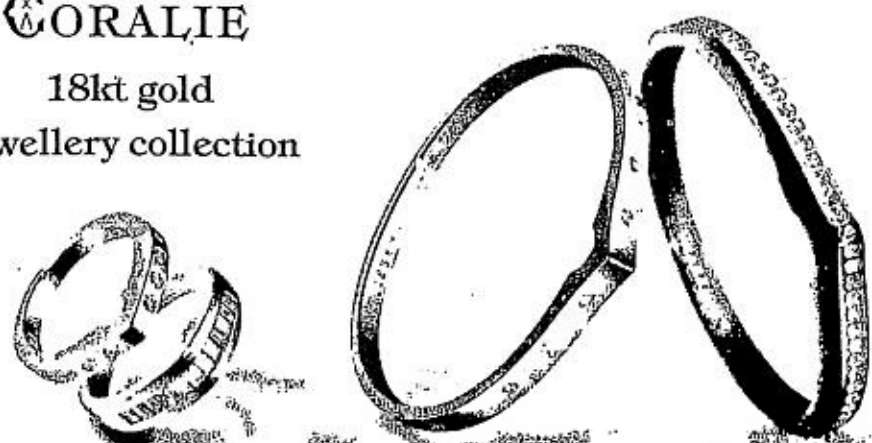
www.robinsonsmalls.com

CHARRIOL
GENEVE

Grand Opening of the 47th CHARRIOL Boutique at Rockwell Center — 7th November 2001



Launch of
CORALIE
18kt gold
jewellery collection



CHARRIOL BOUTIQUES: METRO MANILA Level R1, Power Plant Mall, Rockwell Center, Makati City Tel: 898 2395

Shop No.18 Greenbelt Mall, Ayala Center, Makati City Tel: 867 2523

CORNERS: METRO MANILA Rustan's Makati • Rustan's Tower, Shangri-la Plaza • Rustan's Harrison Plaza • CEBU CITY Rustan's Ayala Center

www.charriol.com

SMART zed™

Yellow Pages.

The pocket-sized solution to finding a number.

Here's how to download the service:

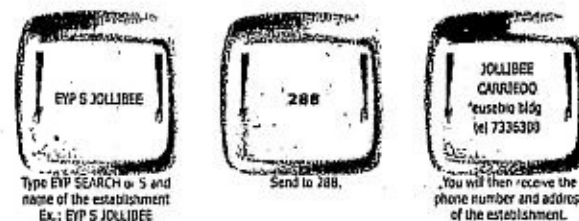
Type EYP SEARCH on 5 and name of the establishment
Ex: EYP 5 JOLLIBEE

Send to 288.

You will then receive the phone number and address of the establishment.

The pocket-sized solution to finding a number.

Here's how to download the service:



For those using SMART zed SIM cards, go to the SMART zed MENU. Click on PERSONALIZE and follow the steps as prompted on your screen.

To get a list of keywords for other SMART zed services, type KEYS and send to 288.





POUFFED UP. Model slash DJ Robby Mananquil



"PEOPLE of Quezon, unite!" says councillor Jay Suarez.



THE PHANTOM of Ayala... Is here, inside your mind.



TIBETAN TIME. Jon Jon Rufino burns the incense.



ESTILO DEL MUERTO. Leah Puyat becomes Frankie's bride.



RED-HOT rocking momma Veejay Golamco in her own creation.



KUBRICK CATHARSIS. Epy Quizon radiates cool.

PARIS, BEWARE! Octopus Anthrax, grand prize winner of Eva Air trip to France.



"WITH THE NEW breathe thin method..." says Rod Nepomuceno.



STUCK IN STOCKINGS. Condom man strikes again.



MASKED MARAUDER. Ryan Eigenmann in Warp's latest



THINK HAPPY THOUGHTS. Your columnist in Michele Sison with Tessa Prieto-Valdes.

LUKE AT ME. Luke Mucklin as Lestat



HEALED BY AN ANGEL. Georgia Schulze with Jon Yulo



EYES WIDE OPEN. Bench award winner "Mata sa Dilim"

HIPPIE BABY! Savannah and dad Francis Lumen

Thriller eve

(From page D1)

eye makeup. "It's so liberating not to look beautiful for an event," I overheard this glamour puss tell other Halloween-outfitted characters.

My friend, Mae Young, waxing nationalistic, scoured Divisoria and got a "dalagang bukid" outfit—for only P180! Her close companion, Paolo Carvajal, bought yards of orange cloth and became a bald monk—at only P120. My point is—you don't need to spend an arm and a leg to come up with decent playful apparel. This year was really a marked improvement from the previous years when less people went in All-Hallows guise. Manila has optimism indeed.

Climax

Amusing were the troupes who arrived as "Priscilla and the Queens of the Desert," Miss Universe candidates, complete with crowns and sashes, the guy group who came in Assumption, Poveda, CSA and OB Montessori uniforms, and the "men" who arrived as stewardesses from various airlines, complete with luggage! I also spotted Ayala's Cathy Bengzon, Pinky Abad, Winnie Nazareth and Miriam Katigbak joining the raiment revelry.

Common sights were "Lara Croft," "The Crow," "Matrix," royal wannabes and, of course, witches and wizards. Surprising sights were Queen Amidala and 2bUI's resident music meister Maui Reyes in a "Scream" mask—so last, last year. "I've worn this for three straight Halloweens!" she screamed.

An hour before midnight, models in Milkwear's magical threads, from pharaohs to centaurs, marched along the columns of the palatial party place. Stephanie Villaraza, Milkwear's main woman, came in as Hermione Granger; she beamed with pride as she saw the models parade her store's creations.

The climax came as Warp presented their "Clockwork Orange"-inspired collection, with designer Ronald Pasion's hipster parade—from Epy Quizon, Mylene Dizon and Ira Cruz, Nathan Azarcon, Rissa Samson, among others—in edgy streetwear of woven shirts, metal-sculptured helmets and pouf shoulder armor clasps.

A DJ showdown ensued, with DJs Anton Ramos, Robby Mananquil, DJ Reggie of Wherelse, Erwin Edralin of ABG's and Ian Elliot a.k.a. DJ Harmonika turning the tables.

Scintillating sensation

By the stroke of midnight, jolly judges Inno and Tessa, along with Ben Chan, Francis Lumen, Maurice Arache and Virgie Ramos turned in the decision for the costume contest—with a trip to Paris as top plum! Holding the envelope containing the name of the winner, I descended on stage from the skies Peter Pan-like (yup, I was flying that night—literally!). The Eva Air trip winner was "Octopus Anthrax"—she came with full tentacles and intricate couture-sized costume.

The Bench award went to "Mata sa Dilim" while the Globe award went to the "Taong Basura." Tita Virgie chose the colorful route by giving the Gift Gate award to new model Brad Turvey, in Milkwear's knight in shining armor, and Tessa's canary camp (even as a judge, she still managed to bring home the bacon). Other latecomers were equally award-winning, such as Angelo Villanueva's "Supermodel



LUSTFUL IN LACE. Mylene Dizon and Ira Cruz in Warp



HAREM OF BEAUTIES. Monique del Mar, Anna Shier and Amanda Griffin



SATINE MEETS HIAWATHA. Our favorite spunky sisters Mimi and Juliet Tan



CLOCKWORK KC with Belinda's Lydia



GIFT Gate goddess Virgie Ramos with award winners Brad Turvey and Tessa Prieto-Valdes in Rajo Laurel's canary creation



WANTED! Osama bin Laden DEAD or ALIVE

Divas' graveyard shift, among other eclectically electric ensembles. Lesson learned—"Don't come too late for a costume contest, unless you are Tessa Prieto-Valdes."

On the other side of the fence, I also hopped onto NBC Tent to pass by "Planet Love"—with a great setup and pumping music by DJ John Robinson. This, before landing onto K8's domain for the "Absolut Daybreak" party where I savored what was left of the evening (or morning, whichever you prefer). In the end, everybody won—the parties were fab and full, the scene sparkled with scintillating sensation.

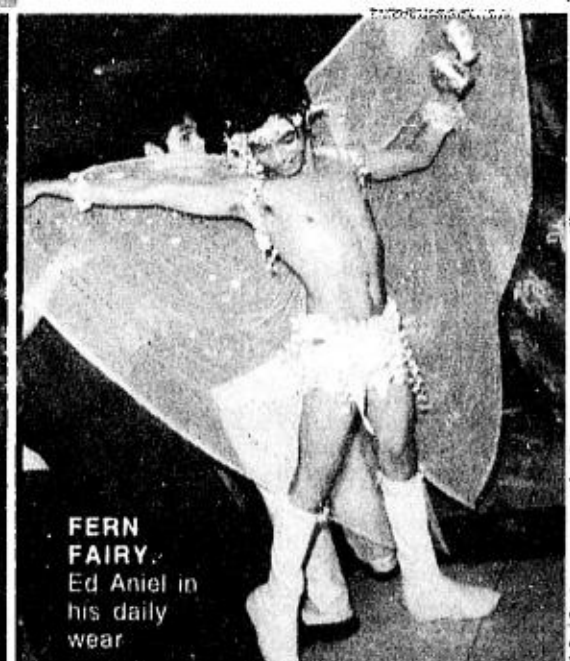
I stared at the full moon and sprinkled fairy dust.



HAIRY CHICK SPOTTED. Derek Ramea



GRAVEYARD SHIFT. Angelo Villanueva, victim of fashion



FERN FAIRY. Ed Aniel in his daily wear

Cell phone theft victims of the world, unite!

BY MELISSA ANNE TELAN
2bU! Correspondent
Ateneo de Manila University

It happened to your *kabarkada*, classmate, professor, boyfriend's cousin, maid's suitor and several other relations to the nth degree. Their stories varied in detail, but they felt the same feelings—rage, remorse and regret. You sympathized with them, but it never crossed your mind that it could happen to you, too. Then one fateful day, your week-old top-of-the-line cell phone (that took you six months of eating instant *pansit* *canton* for lunch to save for) was missing. Panic-stricken, you borrowed a friend's phone and dialed your number in a flash, only to hear that dreaded singsong voice, "Subscriber cannot be reached..." Welcome to the club.

Generation text

It all began with text messaging. This nationwide phenomenon elevated the cellular phone's status from a gaudy mark of social standing to a Filipino lifestyle must-have. These days, almost every Juan and Maria proudly owns a Nokia, Motorola, Erickson or Bosch handyphone. Age is not an issue. Even the most technology-challenged adult has figured out how to use the simple SMS function while 7-year-olds with the slightest inkling on how to operate a cell phone own one.

Money is not an issue. Although these foreign-made handsets are not cheap (texting itself is not cheap, considering the recent reduction of free text messages), no one seems to mind paying the price. Starved students save up their lunch money to buy endless prepaid cards while minimum wage employees forego other luxuries to afford pricey Nokia models. And for those who cannot afford all these or simply do not want to spend, there is only one option: stealing.

Of stick-ups and pickpockets

Stolen cell phones are hot. Not only based in Metro Manila, cell phone theft has spread throughout the country—even to the remotest towns and *barangay*. With many cellular phone owners, stealing cell phones can be a thriving business for those in search of a quick buck. These GSMs ("Galing Sa Magnanakaw") are passed as second-hand units and sold at seedy places like Recto Avenue in Quiapo and even Greenhills. Prices range from P1,000 to P3,000, depending on the unit's market value. SIM-locked phones pose no problem at all since one can have it unlocked for a small fee ranging from P200 to P800. Simple, isn't it? Now it's only a question of how to obtain the goods.

There are a million ways to steal a cell phone, but we can group them in three categories: confrontation, oblivion and neglect.

Confrontation is when the mugger forces the victim to surrender the phone by physical and verbal threat. In this category you will find "FX/taxi *ipit* gangs" (where the driver connives with the assailants, trapping hapless passengers into handing over their phones). Included in this category are syndicates and hold-up men.

These people use all the tricks in the bag. Sometimes they create far-fetched stories to justify their actions, using lines such as "Kamukha mo 'yung gumulpi sa ka-brad ko! Give me your cell phone and money to pay for damages!" If by some bad luck you encounter these types, don't ever take them lightly—they mean business. Resisting could be fatal and no cell phone is worth the fight. Even giving these guys dirty looks is a no-no, as with the case of the student who got stabbed because he gave his attacker the finger. You'll be surprised just how many have been hurt and killed by declining to give in; most of the incidents have gone unreported.

Oblivion happens when the victim is unaware of the operation taking place, believing that his or her phone is still tucked away in safety. Bag slashers, pickpockets and unfaithful househelp thrive in this category. Also included here are cell phones snatched right out of its owner's hand. Mike, a sophomore high school student, was sitting by an ordinary bus window seat while texting a friend. Groping for a signal, he raised his Nokia 7110 cell phone higher, bringing it closer to the open window. As the bus halted to pick up some passengers, a man outside suddenly jumped and snatched the phone and ran away as the vehicle began to move. Too stunned to react, Mike simply went home in grief and disbelief.

The final category is probably the hardest on the victim's ego. It occurs when he or she abandons his or her phone, even for just a few moments, and then later on frantically searches for the missing unit that will most likely never be seen again. Also included in this category are cellular phones left by mistake in a taxi/tricycle/bus driven by opportunists with neither the decency nor the conscience to return what does not belong to them.

If you think cell phone theft is widespread only in public places and shady neighborhoods, think again. Let me use my story as a case. It's a sock in the stomach each time I remember that I've lost three cell phones in less than a year at my university. My Nokia 6110 was taken from my bag while I was having my volleyball finals at the Ateneo Covered Courts. Then I lost my month-old Nokia 8810 which disappeared right before a long Math test (It's a miracle how I passed that exam). And just two months ago, my Nokia 8250 was pilfered from my bag right under my nose at the school library. It's awful that cases like these are rampant in school.

Avoiding theft

Cell phone theft is on the rise because thieves get away scot-free. Victims are defenseless once their phones are gone because tracking down their units is next to impossible. Caution is their best defense. As much as possible, people should avoid texting or making calls while riding public transportation or walking on risky streets. Also, thieves seem to prefer the popular

Cell phone crimes are a thriving business because the police are not doing anything to check cell phone criminal syndicates

Nokia-made units, so owners of such phones should be extra careful.

And, finally, if you are ever a victim of such crime, mourn for a while, tell your story to friends and relatives, and then move on. It happens to the best of us, and you learn a valuable lesson.

E-mail the author at melissatelan@yahoo.com

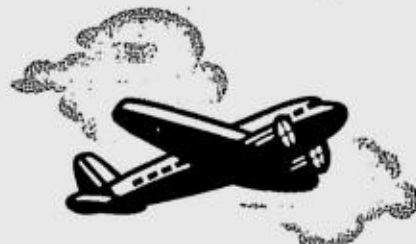


ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

EXPERIENCE THE ULTIMATE BARKADA GIMMICKS!



RAFFLE PROMO



BARKADA TRAVEL

Pack your barkada for a 3-days, 2-nights ultimate gimmick trip for 4 in Bangkok and HongKong!



BARKADA SLEEPOVER

Bring your barkada for 2 sleepover nights for 4 at Caylabne Bay in Cavite, Waterfront Hotel in Cebu and Apo View Hotel in Davao!



BARKADA SHOPPING

Treat your friends to a shopping spree from Avon and wardrobe packages from Sari-Sari!

PLUS! Win cool fashion and novelty items at the Pop-A-Balloon Game booth!

MECHANICS: Join the in-store promo in leading supermarkets nationwide by purchasing any of the participating products. Every P60.00 purchase entitles you to play the Pop-A-Balloon game. Dart a balloon and win instant cool prizes.

Send proof of purchase* of any of the participating packs with your name, address, telephone number and signature to **Cool Days, White Nights at GSK, 72 EDSA Mandaluyong City.**

Or drop in dropboxes found in leading supermarkets nationwide. Get a chance to win exciting shopping and travel gimmicks.

* Proof of purchase: Aquafresh Toothpaste box, Aquafresh Toothbrush backer board (perforated portion), Astring-O-Sol cellophane seal (75%)



Brought to you by Aquafresh Toothpaste, Aquafresh Toothbrush and Astring-O-Sol Mouthwash





ANNA Shier is a magna cum laude graduate of the University of Minnesota. She was Miss Philippines Minnesota in 1995 and Miss Philippines America in 1998. She is a commercial, print and ramp model.

Why did you join the MTV VJ Hunt?

I'm a people person and I love music. I want to go beyond my boundaries. Right now I'm modeling and before that was school. It's nice to model but there's no interaction with people. This is the perfect combination.

If you could change something about MTV, what would it be?

I do a lot of charity work. I'm not sure how much [charity work] MTV does but I really want to see that—something that's not just about MTV. It could be about volunteering in hospitals or in children's homes. When the kids see that, especially if an MTV VJ does that, it shows something positive.



DEREK Ramsay graduated in England with a degree in marketing and electrical engineering. He is currently a host of "Eat Bulaga" and a most sought-after commercial and print model.

Why did you tryout for MTV?

I was curious. I'm good friends with Sarah (Meier) and she said it was totally different from any of the jobs she did in the past and we share the same work. She told me to just go see her. After what I did last week, I realized it's so much fun. So I'm just here to have fun.

Why do you think MTV should choose you?

All the other guys are really cool but I don't think they love this country as much as I do. I don't want to leave this place. Everyone wants to get out of the Philippines but I'm trying to stay. I am proud to be Filipino even though I have only a little Filipino blood. I want to live here, die here, spend the rest of my life here. I know the country more than they do.



MARY Ann Sansano, an event host, loves basketball, muay thai, singing and dancing. She is also a ramp and commercial model.

What made you join MTV?

I enjoy hosting and I used to do live shows. It's a challenge for me because I've never done MTV. It's different.

What sets you apart from the other VJ hopefuls?

It's my individuality. We're all different, but I have determination. When I step on stage it's a whole new world. Knowing that I could make an impact gives me confidence and it's what drives me.

Who will be the next KC and Belinda?



MICKEY Randall is a future physiotherapist who grew up in Victoria, British Columbia. He appears on TV commercials and has done ramp modeling.

What sets you apart from the others?

We all have different qualities and it really depends on what MTV is looking for. I'm a pretty open guy and not much scares me. You could push me to the edge and I could do a lot of things.

What kind of VJ would you be and how would you act?

I'd just be myself. I'm not going to try to be like KC. I'm outgoing and a pretty fun guy. I can be silly and make jokes and everything like that.

CARLOS Ramos, who took up BS Biology at the Ateneo de Davao, is an actor, singer, host and dancer. He works as an events coordinator for an advertising firm in Davao.

Why did you join the VJ hunt?

I thought it was a good way to show what I have to a lot of people. I love it when many people watch me.

If you had your own show, what would you call it?

Damn! Hmm... If I were to have my own MTV show, it would probably be called... "Psycho"—like a lot of horror videos.



BY TESA ARCILLA
2bU! Correspondent

NOW boasting of a huge following, MTV Philippines should probably credit the MTV VJ Hunt for the dramatic increase in its viewers. After all, it was the first hunt that brought into the limelight the cool and wacky VJs KC Montero and Belinda Panelo. With the addition of trendy VJ Sarah Meier and the occasional appearance of MTV Asia's VJ Donita, MTV Philippines got itself a powerhouse of young, trendy, witty, talented and outgoing individuals that many young people aspire to be like.

MTV continues its search for fresh faces and talents with the 2001 MTV VJ Hunt. Launched on Oct. 10, the search has been narrowed from hundreds of young hopefuls to 10 finalists. The finalists are Derek Ramsay, Jansen Cunanan, Louie Tortuya, Mich Astudillo, Mickey Randall, Anna Shier, Monique del Mar, Carlos Ramos, Mary Ann Sansano and Charms Espina. Let's get to know them a little better.

With these 10 finalists, judges will surely have a hard time choosing the one. Am I glad I'm not a judge!

Move over VJs KC, Belinda and Sarah, and make way for future VJs Derek, Jansen, Louie, Mich, Mickey, Anna, Monique, Carlos, Mary Ann and Charms.



CHARMS Espina is a half-American mestiza currently in her junior year at the De La Salle University. An environmentalist, she sings, plays basketball and does taekwondo.

Why did you join the VJ hunt?

Well, most people probably say they love music, but music is a part of my life. I'm really passionate about it so if I become a VJ, I could share that passion with other people.

What kind of VJ would you be?

A clown, because back in high school, I would do anything to make people laugh.

JANSEN "Jansen MD" Cunanan is a former DJ for Magle 89.9 dwTM and a sports enthusiast who just graduated from St. Jude College, Manila major in physical therapy.

Why did you join MTV?

My love for music. I like sharing the power of music. It's nice especially if you have a chance to be on radio and somebody asks you to play a song. I feel the same when I request for a song and the DJs play it. Wow galing! And then they say my name.

What gives you an edge over the other finalists?

I'm myself. Always happy, always smiling. I love hosting, being in front of the public and making people laugh. I also speak Filipino fluently compared to the others.



MICH Astudillo is a computer science graduate of the Ateneo de Davao University. She's a Cal Carrie model. The ramp model and cover girl is also a first aid and CPR (cardio-pulmonary resuscitation) instructor.

What sets you apart from the other finalists?

Since I'm new in hosting, it's not the skills, but personality-wise I have a chance. I'd work hard to be a good VJ.

What kind of persona would VJ Mich have?

VJ Mich would be very clumsy and goofy.



MONIQUE del Mar is a former Hong Kong-based commercial and print model. She is now part of ABS-CBN's Star Circle Batch 9 and she has just finished a movie.

Why did you join the VJ hunt?

I was living in Hong Kong for a year and I did this MTV Global groove for the United Kingdom and Los Angeles where I did the lead for the Hong Kong part. Since I got back to the Philippines, I have been trying to get into the MTV thing but I was late for the first one. I really like music and I want to have fun when I'm working so what better way to combine both than doing MTV. Be a VJ and enjoy it?

What kind of persona would VJ Monique be?

I'd be a chameleon. That's what I'm known for anyway in the modeling industry. I'm always changing my looks so you really never remember me from the commercials I've done. I change my looks all the time from tan, white, dark hair, light hair or whatever it takes.



LOUIE Tortuya, a future lawyer, is currently at the University of the Philippines in Dillman on a study-abroad program. He grew up in Aklan and Los Angeles and is part of Samahang Pilipino, a Filipino-American student organization in the United States that aims to teach Fil-Ams about their roots and culture.

Why do you think MTV should choose you?

MTV is the medium between pop culture and the people who watch it. I've lived in different places and been exposed to things that are important. I know how to deal with people and I could relate what I know in terms of pop culture and the people who watch it. On the other hand, I studied the history of the Philippines so I think I could be a good representative of Filipinos in MTV Philippines and in the broader picture of

MTV as a global medium.

Do you think your growing up in the US or being Fil-Am has anything to do with why you were chosen as finalist?

Definitely, because that's part of me as a person. I have a different perspective on things. Having been in a different culture and seen things at a different angle, that gives me confidence and people see it in the way I interact and carry myself.

If you could change something about MTV, what would it be?

It would be something progressive. MTV Philippines is a young company and it's going to grow a lot in the future and be a representative of the younger generation. It's going to represent art, a generation, and fun. I don't have a specific direction in mind but I want to be part of that progression, that transition.

Nothing really new in music video scene

BY NIÑO MARK M. SABLAN

MANDY Moore's 'Crush'

Seventeen-year-old Mandy's follow-up to "In My Pocket" is a Natalie Imbruglia-sounding "Crush," the video of which starts with a jam in her posh apartment, totally reminiscent of Robbie Williams' "Old Before I Die" video. Bursting with vibrant colors; numerous backdrops and wallpaper-plus scenes wherein Mandy is swallowed by the floor or eaten by the bathtub (think "Sunny Came Home"), the video boasts of nothing remarkable, although the song deserves four earphones out of five.

Jennifer Lopez's 'I'm Real'

After "Play," J. Lo releases "I'm Real," which just makes me assume Faith Evans wrote the song or at least sang back-up vocals for it. In the video, Fly Girl rides a mean Harley, makes men's jaws drop and eats ice cream with the kids. In her trademark dance portion, she dons pigtails and gives a free show before farmers.

Dido's 'Hunter'

In Dido's "Hunter" video, she wears a glowing green top that reminds us of what Mandy's wearing in "In My Pocket." The video implies that Dido is chasing her twin self, which is just so Jewel and "Foolish Games." Dido resembles Jenna Elfman of "Dharma & Greg" and Nina Persson, lead vocalist of the Cardigans.

Five's 'Let's Dance'

In Five's latest video (for a disc-sounding "Let's Dance" from the upcoming album called "Kingsize"), the band is composed of just four members. Sean, the Asian-looking

In Five's newest video, the members take turns conceptualizing the video to humorous results. Is the scene being too creative or just running out of new ideas?

one, is semi-present in the form of a standee. (I'm not a follower of the group so I am totally unaware if Sean's gone solo, gone to the other world or maybe he was just absent during the shoot.) The video is overly peppered with inserts of each member suggesting a concept for the video, thus altering the remaining half-minute of the video—every five seconds. However, it's still the expected stuff from a boy band, the prime purpose of which is to make girls scream their tonsils out.

Paging, creative concepts! Has the video industry gone lazy that it just has to use the same old stuff? Or is it just being safe, giving us what it knows is tried and tested for over a decade now?

Why not Mandy breaking plates or sitting on eggshells for "Crush"? Why not Dido filming in the woods for "Hunter"?

Am I annoyingly cute or what?

E-mail the author at katotino@yahoo.com

At the Snack Exchange

Crunchy-rrific!

cholesterol-free rice crackers

MADE OF Rice And Sugar

SNOW Crackers

Original

Not Fried

We've got it all for you!

DEPARTMENT STORE

QUIAPO • MAKATI • CUBAO • HARRISON • NORTH EDSA • STA. MESA • ORTIGAS • LAS PIÑAS • BACOR • FAIRVIEW • MANILA • PAMPANGA • ILOILO • CEBU

BANKING Quarterly

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ CORRIE S. NARISMA, Assistant Editor

Surge in bad loans threatens banks

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

A WEAK peso, a rising level of non-performing loans and concerns over additional sanctions related to the Philippines' inaction against money laundering were the issues that dominated the banking sector during the third quarter.

Of the three, only the last was resolved during the period, a worrying indication of how bleak the present quarter has become and how the approaching months could become worse for the banking system.

And the battle in the coming months for the banking industry will no doubt be against a surging level of bad loans.

As if the dim prospects of the banking sector were not enough, the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the power centers of the United States aggravated an already nervous situation.

Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura had said that the projected earnings of banks might be harder to achieve specially after the Sept. 11 attacks, which consequently halted an already slow-moving growth in global economies.

Before international strife caught the headlines, the internal riots at the Social Security System as early as the second quarter had ended in the painful replacement of Vitaliano Nafagas II as president of the pension fund. He was appointed chair of the state-owned Development Bank of the Philippines.

Corazon dela Paz took over the SSS, and later, the Ombudsman suspended ranking officials of the pension fund, whom Nafagas investigated for stock market violations.

The other pension fund, the Government Service Insurance System, and its general manager Winston Garcia were also the subject of some controversies.

But the stories about the two pension funds were naturally eclipsed by the bombings of the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

An escalating war being waged by the United States and its supporters against the ruling Taliban government, which is hiding Osama Bin Laden, the prime suspect in the Sept. 11 bombings, had prompted the BSP together with central banks around the world to open a special liquidity facility to bring confidence back into the market by



ensuring that any panic withdrawals would be met.

Together with the facility is a BSP order to banks to provide the regulator with a contingency plan, an assurance that with each bank's files duplicated, the institution could resume normal operations even after an unforeseen event, including a terrorist attack.

After Sept. 11, the pressure being applied by the powerful Financial Action Task Force had become more intense following a directive by US President George W. Bush to US supporters, including the Philippines, that each government must track down and freeze terrorist accounts and assets.

The existence of the Abu Sayyaf in Mindanao, being one of the more than 20 terrorist groups and individuals in the US government watch list, put pressure on the Philippine government to produce an anti-money laundering law that would comply with the US government request.

Thus, a law against money laundering was rushed and passed a day before the Sept. 30 deadline set by the Paris-based task force, giving a temporary respite from the economic sanctions that would have been imposed on the country had it failed to meet the deadline. Once the powerful watchdog accepts the country's anti-money

laundering law when its members meet in February, the Philippines will be removed from its watch list.

Peso concerns

With the laundering problems set aside for the meantime, the concerns about the peso and the banks' swelling amount of soured loans continued to threaten not only locally operating banks and their regulators, but also the economy.

Buenaventura appeared to be more concerned about the bad loans of local banks than the continued weakness of the local currency.

While many investment banks are still betting the peso would slide to as low as 55 to a dollar this year, as the performance of major currencies like the yen also falters, the inflow from dollar remittances should protect the peso's value, he said.

A bank analyst, however, pointed out that the BSP chief's seeming nonchalance about the peso's weakness was also well-calculated.

The peso weakness is not entirely a bane for most banks whose foreign exchange units make a killing every time the local currency tumbles. What banks object to are the attendant measures that accompany a peso fall and the BSP's hesitance to bring down its interest rates.

SURGE/ES

With a grim world economic outlook, bonds offer a way out

BY ELENA R. TORRIJOS

TIMES are tough and getting tougher. Just as difficult is deciding what prudent investments to make given the country's and the world's grim economic outlook. The INQUIRER contacted some top bank executives and asked them what advice they would give their clients with P100,000 to invest, considering their bank's array of products. Here are their answers:



AGCAOILI

Antonio Agcaoili,
Asia United Bank first
vice president and treasury
head

"At present, taking the current volatility into consideration, a safe bet would be investing in fixed-income instruments. Under fixed income, you can invest in either medium- to longer-term notes or long-term deposits that offer value for money."

At Asia United Bank, we offer five-year, tax-exempt time deposits that pay a fixed premium of 100 basis points over prevailing 91-day treasury bill rates, repriced monthly. We launched this product a few months ago, and it has been highly successful. It is the most com-

petitive product structure of its kind.

The interest is exempted from tax and credited to the clients' current or savings accounts monthly, compounding interest further. It is covered by Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. (PDIC) up to a maximum of P100,000. Hence, if the clients' investible amount is the same, the credit risk is technically nil.

We likewise advocate investments in government-issued debts of about two to five years. The current yield curve, represented by the graphical illustration between the 91-day T-bill rate and the 25-year treasury bond, presents plenty of opportunity for handsome returns for long-term investors. The prevailing five-year rate ranges from 15.75 to 16 percent versus the 9-day T-bill rate of only 9.9 percent. This is a very wide differential by historic standards.

Roland Avante,
Chinatrust (Philippines)
Commercial Bank Corp. senior
vice president for treasury

"I think the basic question is whether the P100,000 are available to be placed for a longer period of time, say in two to three years. If it is, my recommendation



WITH/ES AVANTE

sell your foreclosed assets the fast and easy way

JOIN THE PROPERTY FORUM'S ASSET SALES POOL

BALIKBAYAN AUCTION

For more details call: 8943035 / 8943052 website: www.propertyforum.net.ph



Thanks to technology, our ATM can adjust to your level.

Introducing the new DRIVE UP ATM along San Miguel Ave., Pasig. It's the first drive-thru ATM that adjusts to your vehicle's level at a press of a button. That's better banking convenience. At UCPB, whatever you imagine, we can do better – even if it means raising the standard.



TRUCKS/PICK-UPS



MID-SIZE VEHICLES



CARS/SEDANS



UCPB



www.ucpb.com

For more information, please call our Customer Relations Center Hotline at 811-8111 or e-mail us at crc@ucpb.com

Member: Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation. Deposits insured up to P100,000. **MEMBER**

PIRATES OR SAVIORS

Are AMCs the solution or an added burden?

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

ONE banker describes asset management companies as "pirates" who pounce on helpless folks and do their best to exploit the ugly situation that banks find themselves in.

"Some of these guys really want an arm and a leg, if not the entire body," says another banker.

Most AMCs are foreign banks or institutions that acquire bad loans of distressed local banks at an 80-percent discount. This means that for P1 million worth of non-performing loans they acquire, AMCs pay a bank only P200,000. They keep the rest for themselves.

For Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura, however, AMCs are the banking sector's few remaining saviors, if not the only ones. Development Bank of the Philippines chair Vitaliano Nafagas II agrees. They argue that while AMCs may not offer a shotgun solution to the banking sector's growing bad-loans problem, they at least offer some form of relief that may improve the situation.

"The only thing we can do to help banks is to help them get rid of their solve their growing NPL problems," says Buenaventura. He says he is not forcing banks to accept the bargain offers of AMCs, but he is suggesting that both parties pursue mutually acceptable restructuring deals.

Interim measure

While waiting for a law that will provide incentives to banks and AMCs to explore a mutually beneficial relationship, the central bank is planning an interim measure.

Buenaventura says the BSP is studying a plan that will allow banks to each establish a trust unit that will absorb all their bad

loans and assets. The trust unit will sell these loans and assets to an investor, an AMC or a "special purpose vehicle."

The BSP governor admits, however, that there are several concerns that must first be laid to rest. Can banks, for instance, take out bad loans from their NPL portfolios once these are transferred to an internal trust unit? Will the trust certificates that banks must issue for the transfer be considered a deposit substitute? Once the assets are transferred, do banks still need to provide a reserve or a provision for these?

Buenaventura is hopeful that Congress will pass a law "providing for the development of securitization" in the country. House Speaker Jose de Venecia has assured the central bank governor that he is working on getting Congress to approve the law before the year ends.

But whether the Speaker's timetable is doable or not is another matter altogether, especially as it comes on the heels of a controversial P780-billion budget.

Bring down costs

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho is optimistic that this law, once approved, will help bring down the cost of restructuring for banks and allow AMCs to flourish, do good business and improve their offers to banks.

An important provision of the securitization bill calls for the exemption of banks and AMCs undergoing restructuring from paying the 6-percent capital gains tax. It also temporarily relaxes the policy on foreign ownership of properties.

The National Internal Revenue Code requires individuals or companies selling real estate to pay the 6-percent capital gains tax every

time a title for a piece of property is transferred. This means banks will have to pay the capital gains tax before it can sell bad assets to AMCs. AMCs, in turn, will have to pay the same amount before it can sell real estate to other companies.

"We would like to propose a law to help AMCs bring down the cost of restructuring. We would like Congress to take a look at the 6-percent capital gains tax and see how we can help banks dispose of their bad assets," says Camacho.

On foreign ownership of real estate, Buenaventura explains that the idea is to allow AMCs, many of which are based abroad, to temporarily own properties until that they can sell these assets to other parties.

Start now

While the law on securitization has yet to be passed, the BSP wants banks to start getting rid of their bad loans now.

The idea, explains Buenaventura, is for banks to accept a write-off of 20 percent of, for instance, P1 million worth of bad loans. If an AMC is willing to pay 20 percent up front, then the two parties may restructure the remaining 80 percent over a five-year period, for instance.

"We are telling banks that they don't have a choice now. They have to start restructuring because it is already affecting their financial health. This is also the reason why we have been encouraging them to go and attract tier-2 capital as a safeguard against the erosion of their adequacy ratio," says Buenaventura.

The central bank governor assures that contrary to perception of some critics, the government is not subsidizing the cost of restructuring bad loans. The government, he says, will let the private sector take the lead.

UCPB bucks trend, goes on its own

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

WHILE most banks are hitching a ride on the AMC bandwagon, one prominent lender—ninth largest United Coconut Planters Bank—is one to buck the trend and go the other way.

Instead of running to foreign asset management companies for help, UCPB has decided to deal with its bad-loans problem head on through an internal team it calls the "Institutional Recovery Management Division (IRMD)."

UCPB vice president Jaime Jacinto is not a believer in AMCs, especially with the 80-percent discount on acquired bad loans that these companies are charging.

"The pricing is really unreasonable, and we believe we will get more value for the bank if we just do it ourselves," says Jacinto, head of UCPB's asset management team. Besides, he adds, an 80-percent write-off will not be a plus on any bank's balance sheet.

Jacinto believes that by selling its bad loans and assets on its own, UCPB will get 50 percent more in earnings, assuming that:

- The remaining amount left to a bank is 20 percent after the 80-percent discount has been taken out.

- Only 15 percent of that amount can be used for relending since the bank has to take out the 5 percent for loan-loss provisioning.

- An acceptable interest rate to a loan is about 20 percent per annum, and that the tenor of the loan must be at least five years, similar to the duration that the central bank allows a lender to hold a Ropoa.

"Based on these assumptions, the bank will be ahead by approximately 50 percent on a conservative basis without taking into account any property appreciation but taking into account the maintenance cost of these assets," Jacinto explains.

Out-of-the-box ideas

Creativity and innovation, Jacinto says, are the key to having a successful internal asset management team.

The UCPB team is not one to shut out options that other banks may feel squeamish about, and their ideas are mostly "out of the box," a trait uncommon in the industry, he says. The UCPB team is one to consider what the best alternative is for a specific situation. If the creative solution to get rid of an idle asset is a crematorium, Jacinto

says, then so be it.

In a vacant, 6,173-square-meter property along the Zapote-Alabang Road, UCPB is exploring a joint venture with a foreign firm to build a memorial home that will have a mortuary, some crematory facilities and viewing chapels.

Jacinto says only one establishment is currently offering a high-quality memorial service in the area, and the market appears to be vast. "So a crematorium is what we will explore," he says.

In another "out-of-the-box" idea, UCPB's asset management team bought and got a herd of goats to chew down weeds growing on a 21-hectare lot that the bank acquired in Laguna. That saved for the bank the money it would have otherwise spent on lawnmowers and gardeners. It could sell its herd anytime. Jacinto says he is even toying with the idea of putting up a "kambingan" (goat eatery) within the subdivision where UCPB's property lies.

Among the bank's other foreclosed assets are a five-star beach resort in Batangas, a hotel-mall complex along Taft Avenue in Pasay City and some idle but prime lots that have been converted into a parking lot and a passenger terminal.

Really sick accounts

As of the third quarter, UCPB ranked eighth among banks with the highest bad loans ratio, with 22.82 percent of its total loan portfolio regarded as non-performing. The bank is ninth largest in terms of assets, with P108.95 billion, down 1.5 percent from the second quarter and down 1.2 percent year-on-year.

Out of its P64.1 billion worth of loans, an amount almost 3-percent lower from the previous quarter, bad loans accounted for P14.63 billion in the third quarter, down 5.2 percent from a quarter earlier.

Jacinto says more than trying to recover its failed investments, UCPB has established an internal recovery unit to also help its clients restructure their debts or accepting payments-in-kind arrangements.

"The IRMD is like a hospital's intensive care unit. It's where we try to restore really sick accounts back to good health. To do this, we try to make these ICU patients cooperate with us by following a set of recovery strategies that, of course, comes with a certain sacrifice," says Jacinto.

NET EXPRESS

Hassle-free Internet,
right in your Globelines phone.

1-900-9080000

With NetExpress, Globelines brings you the most convenient way onto the Net. Dial up to 1-900-9080000, surf away, and then pay only for the minutes you use together with your landline bill.

- * Pay only for the minutes you use (just P0.50/min.) -- no fixed monthly internet fees!
- * No registration. No activation required.
- * One-bill convenience -- see your minutes reflected in your Globelines bill.
- * Unlimited free web-based e-mail accounts -- enough for the whole family!
- * Fast and easy connections of up to 56 kbps.

Get on the NetExpress now -- for instant internet access that's hassle-free all the way! Because when it comes to the Net, haven't you got more important things to think about?

NetExpress is available in Globelines service areas: Makati, Mandaluyong, Pasig, San Juan, Marikina, Cavite, Batangas and Calapan, Mindoro.

Here's how to get on-line with NetExpress:

All you need is your Globelines NDD-activated phone, personal computer (PC) and modem. To configure your computer for NetExpress, follow these steps. You only have to create and configure the dialer once -- after that, it's just click and surf.

To create and configure the dialer

1. On the Desktop, double click on My Computer. Double click on Dialup Networking. Double click on Make New Connection. Enter glinesnx as the name of the computer you are dialing. Click Next. Enter 19009080000 in the Telephone Number field. Leave the Area Code field blank. Select Philippines as your country code. Click Next. Then, click Finish. You now have a glinesnx dialer.
2. Right click on the glinesnx icon. Select Properties. Uncheck Use area code and Dialing Properties. Check only the following in the Server Type tab: Enable software compression, TCP/IP. Click OK.
3. Right click on the glinesnx icon. Select Create Shortcut. Select Yes to place your Shortcut on the Desktop. Your Globelines NetExpress server is ready to go!

Before you surf the Net

Before surfing with NetExpress, remember to deactivate your phone lock.

To surf the Net

1. Double click on your Shortcut to glinesnx dialup icon. Type in globe in the User Name box. Leave the Password box blank. 19009080000 should appear in the Phone number box.
2. Click on Connect.
3. As soon as you are connected to NetExpress, click on your web browser to surf the Net.

Happy surfing!

check out

www.glinesnx.com.ph

For details, call 730-1000 (NCR), 974-5463 (Cavite), 984-5463 (Batangas & Mindoro).

No Globelines yet? Visit your Globe Telecom Business Center and subscribe now!



Globelines
(Communicating Made Easier)



NEW SSS CHIEF CORAZON S. DELA PAZ

'Let's go back to basics, do things right'

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

IN HER first few days as president of the Social Security System, then newly retired partner and chair of PriceWaterhouseCoopers, Corazon de la Paz, braced herself for the worst.

She had every reason to be wary as she was named head of the pension fund on the heels of demonstrations staged by the SSS union against her predecessor, Vitaliano Nañagas II.

After a few months at the SSS, however, she discovered that she had no reason to worry. People at the SSS received her well and welcomed her open and relaxed management style.

She admits she still finds herself in the middle of bickering and infighting these days as office politics happen to be very much alive at the SSS. Tension-filled meetings remain a normal fare. But all these, she says, are part of a dynamic organization.

De la Paz, in an interview with INQUIRER, says the initial hesitation to lead the SSS turned into a crusade that is now participated in by the pension fund's more than 4,000 workforce.

De la Paz still tells her colleagues at the SSS not to give her too much of a headache because, for one who can already opt to sit back and enjoy the fruits of her retirement from a successful career, leaving will always be an attractive option.

For now, however, that option seems likely to remain in the sidelines for a long time.

Excerpts from the interview:

Q: Have things changed since you took over the SSS leadership?

A: A lot has changed. More than anything, I have rediscovered that the SSS is made up of professionals who do not resist change and who actually wanted to play an active part in it.

I am happy with how things are turning out. They are making me feel very welcome and in turn, I am getting pleasant surprises day by day as to how they wanted to be a part of the change that we want to put in place.

Nakakatuwa, because during the first flag ceremony I attended, I was intending to remind them of their duties to their country and their fellows. Before I spoke, they sang the SSS



DELA Paz rediscovered that SSS is made up of professionals.

hymn and it spoke about service for the country and the giving of one's self. Maganda. So I told them, "you already sang what I was supposed to remind you of. Yan pala, there is no need to remind you so let's get to work."

Even yung mga nag away-away, those who have personal issues against each other have been working really hard. I tell them to leave their personal animosities outside the office because once they are in a meeting or they are involved in projects, they have to produce results, no matter what.

They like the openness that I demonstrate in decision-making. I tell them, kung mali ako, you have to tell me. Don't just say yes because I don't want to get into trouble and I don't want to bring everybody down with me.

Sabi ko sa kanila, I don't want to go to jail for you and please, I have no intentions of growing old because of you guys.

Q: What were your priorities

when you came in?

A: Initially, I just wanted to make it work and I also know they needed to heal as some of the wounds remain fresh especially after we filed cases against some of the union officials.

I want to be the one they can go to when there is a conflict, rather than become the source of one.

Q: Looking back, what do you think went wrong with your predecessor, former SSS president and now Development Bank of the Phils. chair Vitaliano Nañagas?

A: I think the previous administration was in a hurry to make changes when it came in and that it wanted to show that it was different from its predecessor. It wanted to demonstrate that reforms were really needed because why else did we go into this transition anyway?

But change isn't something you can rush especially if you are alone. You have to provide a buy-in period and make them (the SSS people) feel that

the idea of change is actually theirs and not yours alone.

I really believe that Lany was misunderstood because he is really a good man. It was a simple case of being at the wrong place at the wrong time.

Q: But weren't you supposed to embark on reforms too?

A: I don't want to call it reforms, just improvements on the ways we have been doing things. For instance, the SSS is aware that it has to improve collections from its members whether they are contributions or payments for loans.

We have created a task force that is now looking into how we can improve collection and one of the schemes proposed is to go to the members, house-to-house if we must, instead of just waiting for them to pay.

This would really entail more work but we have to do this if we want to get things done.

Q: How about improvements for the 23 million members of the SSS?

A: The things we have to do go hand-in-hand. You see, the reason we have to increase our collections is to raise money to finance our increasing operating expenses that, of course, are used mostly to service the requirements of our members. Operating expenses should not exceed 12 percent of the contributions. With this policy, our hands are kind of tied.

The growth in our contributions is lagging behind the increases in what we have to spend for operations. Our operating costs have almost doubled in the last three years. The expense level has tested the ceiling for several times already. *Muntik-muntikan nang lumampas.*

Q: The SSS has been criticized for its "atrocious bonuses," will you do something to correct that?

A: We are already doing something about it and this is why I am very pleased even with the union. You see, we also created a task force consisting of the rank-and-file employees, including some union officers, and the management. They are tasked to identify specific items for savings.

The group has already identified almost half-a-million peso worth of savings for the SSS. They have slashed the Christmas package for employees by 75 percent and the anniversary bonus also by 75 percent.

The discretionary funds for all se-



"THIS is the best time to regroup," says De la Paz.

nior officers including myself was also removed. Because of this, even the commission members have given up their discretionary funds voluntarily.

Q: How are the employees reacting to these "painful" changes?

A: It will really affect them but they are open to it and others even welcome it. They are starting to feel the pinch already and I understand because they have families to raise and bills to pay.

I told them that they have to experience how it was not to have too much so they would appreciate how business should be run on the principle of allocating scarce resources.

I remember what the union president told me when I spoke to them (the union) to tell them that I regret having to cut their bonuses.

Q: What is your outlook for the pension fund for next year?

A: I told them that for a change, we do not plan for any "sexy" things and measures. I told them that what we need to do is improve what we do everyday. It's like going back to basics.

The organization has gone a long way now. It had initiated big things in the past. It is time to look inside and improve the basic things that we may have overlooked.

I told them that, *pahinga muna tayo* in terms of putting in place new things. Let's go back to the basics and do things right. This is the best time to regroup.

Q: Surely you have plans to increase earnings from the fund's investments also. What is your strategy?

A: The investment climate now is really tough. I want to impose a prudent investment policy that calls for the

safety of the principal. This means that the value of my investments should not be eroded by chronic losses. *Dapat hindi sya magko-collapse.*

If it were my money, it would be easier to make decisions and take the plunge. But our fund consists of the hard-earned money of our members and this means that we can't gamble with it.

So far, we have been quiet on the equities side because of how the local market is performing. But once there is a good investment opportunity and when we see it's time to come in because the prices have already hit the rock bottom, we will do it. But the SSS will not support the market just for the sake of supporting it.

Baka ubusin lang ng mga chupitero ang pera ng mga members.

Q: What then is your biggest challenge in running the SSS?

A: My relationship with the organization is a work in progress. But what I really want to do now is to exhaust all means available to us to improve our earnings so we can improve our service to the members.

Politically, it is not easy to increase our members' contributions even if they are much lower compared with the contributions of the GSIS members. Therefore, we have to increase our earnings through other means.

You see, the actuarial assumptions that were used in setting the rate of contributions had wrongly assumed a much shorter life span for our members. Now, people have longer life span and this means they have to rely on us for pension for a longer time. The growth in the population also adds pressure on the SSS fund.

GSIS PRESIDENT WINSTON GARCIA

'GSIS will meet obligations for the next 55 years'

BY TINA ARCEO-DUMLAO AND ELENA R. TORRIJOS

WINSTON Garcia, president of the Government Service Insurance System, is not easily ignored. He burst on the financial scene 10 months ago upon his appointment to the top GSIS post by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Garcia, who was recommended by his close friend and a strong supporter of the President, Lito Osmeña, did not settle quietly into his new post. He soon grabbed attention and headlines with his booming voice, brash manner and audacious statements.

During the last annual stockholders meeting of Equitable-PCI Bank, where he sat as director, for instance, the GSIS president shocked the audience with his accusations and complaints against the Go family, the bank's majority shareholder.

He accused the Gos of blocking a move to improve the bank's health through a capital call that would have effectively loosened the family's grip on the bank.

After top management of Equitable-PCI Bank resigned, Garcia did not back down from calling Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura's interference in the issue as "unethical."

Garcia also led a failed crusade to tip control of San Miguel Corp. in favor of the government by seeking the election of GSIS senior executive vice president Roberto Malonzo to the board.

Garcia's latest tirade has been hurled against National Power Corp. president and fellow Cebuano Jesus Alcorido for the latter's insistence that a joint bidding of the reinsurance of the state-owned power firm's assets of \$6 billion be held.

In an interview with the INQUIRER, the lawyer and occasional politician boasted of dramatically improving the loan collection rate of GSIS and shortening documentation processing to a matter of days from months.

His success in instituting reforms and avoiding an employee uprising similar to what befell former Social Security System president Vitaliano Nañagas II was the result of political savvy, he said. And it is this same political savvy that he is counting on to keep him in his post.

Excerpts from the interview

Q: What do you think is the role of GSIS in the banking industry?

A: As a financial institution, it is not a direct role but an indirect role in that somehow we can influence the investment thrusts of banking institutions. For example, most banks right now invest more in government securities rather than in lending these out to the private sector because of eco-



GSIS' Winston Garcia spearheaded the change in the pension funds investment strategy.

nomie difficulties.

Banks do have excess liquidity but they prefer to invest these in more or less more secure investment portfolio like government securities that come with sovereign guarantee and virtually no administrative costs.

Where we can perhaps come in is in increasing our investments in government securities so that there is less available for them to invest in and more pressure for them to invest in the open market or to the private sector.

Q: What is the current breakdown of your investments?

A: During my term, we have made a very dramatic shift in our investment portfolio. For lack of a better investment portfolio, I shifted a major portion of it on members' loans. We have invested P70 billion in members' loans out of P140 billion in available funds.

In government securities we have around maybe 25 percent and the rest are in loans to institutions and also stocks. What I am proud to announce is that for the first 10 months of my office, compared to 10 months last year, our investment income grew by 47 percent and that is on record. This is because of the shift in investment priority.

I leaned heavily now on members' loans which are salary loans and home loans. We increased our salary loans from P10 billion to P55 billion, it has 95-percent collection efficiency because we collect through salary de-

duction. This has dramatically increased our investment income.

Q: How were you able to increase collection efficiency?

A: We did a lot of cleaning up and we also adopted a strategy of condonation of penalties and restructuring of loans. I am fortunate that most of these bad real estate loans have reached the level where it is no longer worthwhile to have these foreclosed because the value has gone up. Our condonation program expired last Sept. 30 and it yielded P1 billion.

Q: What kind of benefits do you plan to provide from increased income?

A: I can increase retirement benefits or, for a reduced premium, I can increase retirement benefits. I can also provide at least P1,500 a month to those without pension. I will be able to do this if the actuarial reserve is increased.

I am already in the process of hiring a consultant to put up a plan for these properties. The consultant will help us determine the best use for these properties, where it is better to lease or develop, or go into joint ventures.

Q: A possible problem that may arise from giving too many benefits is the inability to meet obligations later on. How does the GSIS plan to address this?

A: We are very conservative in our investment approach. It also depends on how we look at our excess liquid-

ity. Let's say, for example, our members' loans. It is always on market rates, while the Social Security System offers subsidized rates. We charge 15 percent, SSS charges 6 percent. This is also why we are conscious about the yield rate on our investments. We really want it to be 12 percent.

Q: Will you not fall into the trap of giving so much benefits?

A: I believe that our mandate here is our members. How we can enhance our benefits to the members. We don't just increase without the proper study or actuarial studies. My projection next year is that our claims and benefits obligations will be entirely sourced from investment income and that is our goal, so that the reserves will grow. Our projection is that we will still be able to pay off benefits for the next 55 years.

What I am saying is that the effort to make GSIS more profitable, the prevailing thinking before was to invest the funds in big corporations, invest in the stock market. This was supposed to be the smart thing to do. Our system did it, the GSIS invested about P50 billion in stocks and institutional loans.

Out of that P50 billion, the return is zero right now and *lugi pa* because the value has gone down. You will only be able to sell it now at a big loss. This was why we shifted investment strategies.

Q: What happened with the banks where you have equity?

A: We have two banks where we have big equity, Comsavings Bank and Equitable-PCI Bank. For Equitable there is nothing we can do, we can just wait and perhaps hope that we can have a new management there.

There has to be massive infusion of capital to save that bank. If there was a call, we would have increased our capital. But there was no call.

With respect to Comsavings Bank, I am mulling the idea of going into microfinancing, making this bank the leading commercial bank on microfinancing because in microfinancing, the returns are higher than normal loans. It can range from 24 to 36 percent per annum.

Going into microfinancing might be an alternative that we can consider. Otherwise, we will have to sell. We have about P500 million in capital in Comsavings Bank.

Q: Given the economic difficulties and the impact on the investment community, do you think GSIS will be profitable this year?

A: Last year, we had a net income of about P20 billion but this year we estimate that we will end up with about P35 billion. I am proud because despite the difficulties, we were able to increase our investment income.

Q: When you first came to GSIS, you were immediately put into the hot seat with people saying that you are not equipped to be GSIS chief. Does being a lawyer, instead of a banker, help?

A: Yes, because you get a broader perspective. They have criticized me because I am not an investment banker. I should be incompetent to run GSIS, they said. But GSIS has been run by investment bankers before, they have not achieved the kind of achievement I made in such a short period of time.

I have increased investment programs and we also set a new standard in speed.

Q: How do you think were you able to institute some changes?

A: As I always say, I am amazed at government. There are simple things that they make complicated. Like I always say, the most uncommon commodity in government is common sense. For example, salary loans before took us three weeks to one month to process. Retirement benefits took us up to six months.

But by doing simple things like seeing where the backlog is, and fixing it up, we were able to cut the processing time in a span of three months. Right now, instead of three weeks, it is only eight hours. For retirement benefits, the processing time has been reduced from two months to only five days.

It really is just too simple. I just let them see and make them believe in themselves.

Q: Did you not get any resistance like what happened in SSS?

A: No, because I did not bring in new people. In my style of management, when you're a manager, you're an SVP and the system pays you for that, then work for that pay. I only brought in one person and that did not upset the bureaucracy because we had to create a new position for him.

E-Banking Made More Customer Friendly at UCPB

Increased usage of its e-channels and ATMs has validated UCPB's heavy investments in alternative banking channels to deliver services to its customers.

Over the last three years, UCPB has embarked on an extensive expansion of its ATM network, opening new sites in areas where customers are likely to congregate as they go about their daily activities like in shopping malls, in gasoline stations and in transport terminals.

All told, the bank opened 94 new ATM sites bringing its nationwide total to 201. This includes the highly innovative UCPB ATM Mobile, which is the first and only vehicle-mounted ATM service and the UCPB Drive Up ATM, which is the first and only ATM to be equipped with lifts that allows the machine to adjust to the height of the customers' vehicles thus allowing them to perform their transactions in the comfort and safety of their vehicles.

In addition to the expansion of its ATM network, UCPB rolled out new IT-based channels further widening customers' access to the bank's services. This year alone, the bank introduced three e-channels namely, UCPB Telebanking, UCPB Connect, and 1Time Payment.

Based on the bank's monitoring records, customers' acceptance of these alternative channels have been very enthusiastic. Between 1999 and 2001, usage of UCPB's ATMs nearly doubled from a monthly average of 662,000 transactions to 1.2 million transactions. On the other hand, in only five months since the roll out of the bank's e-channels, usage increased dramatically; the value of the transaction through these channels rose by 1,462%, from P6.9 million in May 2001 to P107.8 million in September 2001.

UCPB Vice President for Marketing Rosario C. Tan said the wide acceptance of the alternative banking channels is mainly due to the convenience that these channels provide to the banking public.

"What we've basically done is adopt our service delivery strategy to the evolving lifestyle of our customers. Where before they have to do their banking transactions from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, now they can do their banking anytime, anywhere and anyway they want it. In effect, banking no longer cramp their lifestyle," Ms. Tan said.

Ms. Tan cited these examples:

- Through UCPB Telebanking, the bank's phonebank service, customers can check on their peso or dollar deposit balances, transfer funds from their peso account to any account in any UCPB branch nationwide, pay their bills, order a new checkbook, cancel a lost ATM card or do a host of other routine banking transactions at home using their landlines or even while stuck in traffic using their cellular phones.
- UCPB Connect, the bank's retail internet banking facility, lets the customers do their banking transactions using their personal computers, WAP-enabled cellular phones or WAP-enabled personal digital assistants. And what's more, they get confirmation of their transaction via e-mail, text message or fax message.
- And with 1Time, customers can settle their internet purchases without giving out any credit card or bank account information to service providers on the web.

How the banks fared

Real & Other Properties Owned or Acquired by Commercial Banks
(2nd & 3rd Qtrs. 2001 and 3rd Qtr. 2000)

Ranking Q3 '02	Commercial banks	Q3 '01	Q2 '01	% Change	Q3 '00	% Change
1	Philippine National Bank	22,441,934,288	22,581,451,151	-0.6%	23,118,661,090	-2.9%
2	Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co.	20,736,405,330	20,051,932,712	3.4%	17,725,393,893	17.0%
3	United Coconut Planters Bank	19,753,759,617	19,510,627,763	1.2%	14,687,904,778	34.5%
4	Land Bank of the Philippines	10,762,434,305	9,917,766,820	8.5%	9,281,947,832	16.0%
5	Equitable PCI Bank	9,087,229,976	8,942,867,188	1.6%	8,244,908,012	10.2%
6	Bank of the Philippine Islands	7,556,447,440	7,101,346,604	6.4%	4,886,554,547	54.6%
7	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	6,640,513,688	6,923,590,467	-4.1%	4,345,488,811	52.8%
8	Union Bank of the Philippines	5,100,227,273	4,509,843,736	13.1%	4,490,229,197	13.6%
9	Allied Bank	4,790,590,696	4,321,952,565	10.8%	3,479,897,102	37.7%
10	Banco de Oro	4,414,131,818	4,293,776,946	2.8%	1,724,420,417	156.0%
11	Philippine Bank of Communications	4,078,327,881	2,863,216,377	42.4%	2,251,509,299	81.1%
12	Security Bank	3,398,566,567	2,870,769,367	18.4%	2,309,671,394	47.1%
13	Global Bank	3,374,831,178	3,404,233,376	-0.9%	1,447,438,812	133.2%
14	China Banking Corp.	3,181,213,777	3,121,633,910	2.2%	2,695,148,002	18.4%
15	Prudential Bank	2,880,388,840	2,704,386,091	6.5%	2,362,261,842	20.9%
16	Development Bank of the Philippines	2,746,204,964	2,673,448,817	2.7%	2,354,650,574	16.6%
17	Traders Royal Bank	1,796,212,791	1,734,074,189	3.6%	1,710,702,435	5.0%
18	International Exchange Bank	1,785,331,430	1,760,312,922	1.4%	1,373,163,307	30.0%
19	Philippine Veterans Bank	1,513,820,985	1,504,546,487	0.6%	1,317,618,700	14.9%
20	Bank of Commerce	1,365,881,607	1,207,745,151	13.1%	1,036,342,758	31.8%
21	TA Bank of the Phils	605,921,264	632,710,705	-4.2%	519,370,956	16.7%
22	East West Bank	563,831,183	555,821,631	1.4%	468,079,751	20.5%
23	Philippine Trust Co	405,626,787	401,970,125	0.9%	682,482,120	-40.6%
24	Citibank	380,436,083	709,125	53548.7%	781,561	48576.4%
25	Export and Industry Bank	259,506,635	220,501,774	17.7%	221,254,724	17.3%
26	Maybank Phils. Inc.	253,597,091	226,118,278	12.2%	199,592,027	27.1%
27	DBS Bank	155,255,523	151,712,835	2.3%	200,334,538	-22.5%
28	Standard Chartered Bank	110,006,844	136,900,817	-19.6%	70,212,405	56.7%
29	Chase Manhattan Bank	85,000,000	32,000	265525.0%		
30	HSBC	77,525,433	90,720,125	-14.5%		
31	Banco Santander	66,742,000	66,742,000	0.0%		
32	United Overseas Bank	65,928,189	67,509,121	-2.3%		4.7%
33	International Commercial Bank of China	57,096,395	64,909,995	-12.0%	58,033,245	-1.6%
34	ING Barings	1,649,574				
35	Bangkok Bank	35,877	35,877	0.0%		
TOTAL		140,502,613,329	134,615,918,991	4.4%	113,347,035,792	24.0%

Non-Performing loans of Commercial Banks
(2nd & 3rd Qtrs. 2001)

Ranking Q3 '02	Commercial Banks	Ratio to total loan portfolio Q3	Q2	Amount of NPL Q3	Q2	Total loan portfolio Q3	Q2
1	TA Bank of the Phils.	95.00%	28.00%	482,867,000	271,527,000	508,261,053	969,739,286
2	United Overseas Bank	66.77%	62.70%	5,479,916,815	4,879,740,888	8,207,154,133	7,782,680,524
3	Traders Royal Bank	65.55%	64.56%	3,305,640,674	3,345,202,497	5,042,930,090	5,181,540,423
4	Philippine National Bank	53.00%	44.00%	51,157,000,000	44,736,000,000	96,522,641,509	101,672,727,273
5	Bank of Commerce	32.81%	30.93%	3,511,145,963	3,275,958,849	10,702,755,481	10,591,867,985
6	Prudential Bank	26.55%	24.93%	5,405,266,869	5,291,543,753	20,358,828,132	21,225,606,711
7	Land Bank of the Philippines	26.27%	24.23%	30,595,008,822	30,002,332,058	116,463,680,327	123,823,079,067
8	Philippine Bank of Communications	25.26%	19.81%	6,208,746,230	4,727,742,432	24,579,359,580	23,865,433,778
9	United Coconut Planters Bank	22.82%	23.37%	14,629,668,676	15,433,314,158	64,108,977,546	66,038,998,392
10	Allied Bank	22.62%	22.73%	9,651,276,000	9,999,154,000	42,970,952,805	43,990,998,680
11	Export and Industry Bank	21.96%	22.29%	983,102,668	974,859,979	4,476,788,106	4,373,530,337
12	Global Bank	21.85%	19.89%	7,386,256,726	7,193,961,720	33,804,387,762	36,166,738,652
13	Equitable PCI Bank	20.99%	19.55%	27,150,276,032	24,626,127,092	129,348,623,306	125,964,844,460
14	Union Bank of the Philippines	19.06%	15.81%	3,227,294,939	2,865,941,373	16,914,543,705	18,127,396,414
15	DBS Bank	18.92%	16.62%	2,268,406,461	1,992,560,836	11,994,748,737	11,988,934,031
16	Bangkok Bank	18.21%	20.74%	381,031,172	397,525,462	2,092,428,183	1,916,708,076
17	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	18.15%	17.88%	14,306,406,000	13,612,950,000	78,834,192,837	76,135,067,114
18	HSBC	17.50%	15.46%	4,399,949,000	4,381,249,000	25,142,565,714	28,339,256,145
19	Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.	17.21%	16.10%	30,958,463,876	29,403,344,685	179,886,600,993	182,629,470,093
20	Philippine Veterans Bank	16.94%	16.98%	1,018,220,438	1,039,001,035	6,010,746,384	6,118,969,582
21	China Banking Corp.	15.08%	14.47%	6,245,691,773	6,195,700,497	41,417,054,198	42,817,556,994
22	Bank of the Philippine Islands	14.31%	14.50%	21,965,000,000	22,919,000,000	153,494,080,098	158,068,088,966
23	International Exchange Bank	14.06%	13.11%	3,036,731,184	2,776,201,631	21,598,927,575	21,176,213,814
24	Korea Exchange Bank	13.40%	12.11%	203,357,480	245,006,419	1,517,592,983	2,023,174,391
25	Deutsche Bank AG	13.08%	10.18%	768,300,251	586,660,000	5,873,855,128	5,762,868,369
26	East West Bank	13.04%	13.20%	983,570,285	994,635,632	7,542,716,910	7,535,118,424
27	Development Bank of the Phils.	11.82%	9.61%	9,217,398,785	7,865,834,971	77,981,377,200	81,850,519,990
28	Philippine Trust Co.	11.58%	11.57%	1,969,882,665	1,997,484,595	17,011,076,554	17,264,343,952
29	Int'l Commercial Bank of China	11.30%	9.92%	1,241,861,835	1,097,867,123	10,989,927,743	11,067,208,901
30	Security Bank	11.21%	10.74%	3,991,817,904	3,825,854,077	35,609,437,145	35,622,477,439
31	Banco de Oro	10.99%	8.56%	4,867,958,980	3,655,165,846	44,294,440,218	42,700,535,584
32	Maybank Phils. Inc.	9.40%	10.86%	587,113,496	615,188,761	6,245,888,257	5,864,721,741
33	Standard Chartered Bank	7.08%	9.44%	1,916,629,079	1,954,619,911	27,071,032,189	20,705,179,396
34	Chinatrast (Phils.) CBC	6.45%	7.94%	575,974,667	597,510,117	8,929,839,797	8,784,762,173
35	Fuji Bank Ltd.	5.00%	5.00%	498,614,496	426,243,861	9,972,269,920	8,524,877,220
36	Australia & New Z. Banking Group	3.71%	4.35%	173,161,020	178,161,020	4,667,412,947	3,980,713,111
37	ING Barings	3.65%	4.30%	391,220,920	488,968,922	10,718,381,370	11,371,370,279
38	Asia United Bank	2.61%	1.56%	201,475,325	119,136,096	7,719,361,125	7,636,929,253
39	Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi Ltd.	1.98%	1.77%	228,761,315	215,625,575	11,553,601,768	12,182,235,876
40	Citibank	1.23%	1.50%	1,747,091,335	2,113,719,899	142,039,945,975	140,914,659,933
41	Bank of America	0.00%	6.54%	44,700	260,870,000	2,822,117,158	3,988,837,920
42	Banco Santander Phils. Inc.	0.00%	0.00%	-	-	2,472,105,879	3,217,422,165
43	Chase Manhattan Bank	0.00%	0.00%	-	-	1,501,121,000	893,464,000
TOTAL				283,320,625,835	267,674,491,590	1,193,620,155,653	1,250,653,387,234

Loans, Discounts & Advances of Commercial Banks
(2nd & 3rd Qtrs. 2001 and 3rd Qtr. 2000)

Ranking		Commercial Banks	Q3 '01	Q2 '01	% Change	Q3 '00	% Change
Q3 Q2							
1	1	Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.	169,547,166,714	171,845,841,813	-1.3%	170,907,911,885	-0.8%
2	2	Bank of the Philippine Islands	138,821,785,077	140,257,491,187	-2.4%	143,304,715,574	-4.5%
3	4	Equitable PCI Bank	97,837,194,242	100,304,808,042	-3.0%	113,647,919,457	-13.9%
4	3	Land Bank of the Philippines	94,639,105,471	103,169,859,819	-8.3%	105,937,878,661	-10.7%
5	6	Philippine National Bank	76,969,051,156	78,931,110,715	-2.5%	84,620,355,968	-9.3%
6	6	Development Bank of the Philippines	72,336,229,620	76,150,373,914	-5.0%	86,490,398,199	-9.5%
7	7	Citibank	70,308,913,053	67,981,808,663	3.4%	68,437,520,598	2.7%
8	8	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	66,826,812,903	65,889,416,937	1.7%	66,435,368,499	1.2%
9	9	United Coconut Planters Bank	51,450,727,379	53,925,074,995	-4.8%	58,645,775,018	-12.3%
10	10	Banco de Oro	38,693,089,120	38,561,515,842	0.3%	35,225,440,889	9.8%
11	12	China Banking Corp.	36,989,365,064	35,409,863,665	4.5%	35,352,299,117	4.6%
12	11	Allied Bank	35,350,637,519	37,844,015,803	-6.6%	37,228,927,501	-5.0%
13	14	Security Bank	31,881,291,238	31,276,290,739	1.9%	31,188,658,974	2.2%
14	13	Global Bank	30,539,397,150	32,366,715,247	-6.6%	32,366,715,247	7.8%
15	15	HSBC	21,026,363,113	20,287,211,074	3.6%	21,327,759,132	33.7%
16	16	International Exchange Bank	19,763,841,862	19,375,176,867	2.0%	20,584,029,466	-4.0%
17	17	Prudential Bank	19,508,753,810	19,259,800,195	1.3%	18,794,466,173	3.8%
18	18	Philippine Bank of Communications	18,292,987,235	17,638,460,054	3.7%	19,994,030,708	-8.5%
19	19	Standard Chartered Bank	16,079,151,754	15,981,590,851	0.6%	15,024,618,621	7.0%
20	21	Philippine Trust Co.	15,280,610,110	14,158,972,909	7.9%	13,003,180,151	17.5%
21	20	Union Bank of the Philippines	14,610,366,231	15,250,564,849	-4.2%	15,274,822,745	-4.4%
22	22	Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi Ltd.	10,840,393,249	11,671,295,478	-7.0%	9,868,905,309	10.0%
23	24	International Commercial Bank of China	10,498,921,698	10,567,875,696	-0.7%	8,888,004,848	18.1%
24	26	Bank of Commerce	9,618,481,418	9,364,037,359	2.7%	10,143,280,098	-5.2%
25	25	DBS Bank	9,260,768,754	9,552,006,011	-3.1%	8,345,451,062	11.0%
26	28	Fuji Bank Ltd.	9,101,475,496	7,596,664,671	19.8%	6,833,186,111	33.2%
27	23	ING Barings	8,647,588,494	10,658,264,972	-18.9%	8,975,867,095	-3.7%
28	27	Chinatrast (Phils.) Comm'l Bank Corp.	8,633,833,689	8,475,737,905	1.9%	6,227,871,880	38.6%
29	29	United Overseas Bank	7,481,439,135	7,445,646,290	0.5%	6,774,640,447	10.4%
30	30	Asia United Bank	7,460,011,929	7,025,393,742	6.2%	6,860,459,134	12.9%
31	31	East West Bank	6,893,346,324	6,202,404,592	11.0%	4,923,580,296	39.2%
32	32	Traders Royal Bank	4,803,550,195	4,941,480,904	-2.8%	5,165,816,861	-7.0%
33	33	Deutsche Bank AG	4,745,958,952	4,791,510,978	-1.0%	5,313,908,642	-10.7%
34	34	Maybank Phils. Inc.	4,425,803,409	4,524,666,719	-2.2%	3,080,415,108	43.7%
35	36	Australia & New Zealand Banking Group	4,276,192,738	3,839,918,819	11.3%	3,123,957,769	36.9%
36	37	Export and Industry Bank	3,425,930,449	3,441,240,907	-0.4%	4,226,011,859	-18.9%
37	38	Philippine Veterans Bank	3,212,790,321	3,320,592,327	-3.2%	5,975,339,120	-46.2%
38	35	Bank of America	2,815,216,800	3,987,005,164	-29.4%	3,256,569,508	-13.6%
39	39	Banco Santander Phils. Inc.	2,076,502,714	2,596,323,037	-19.9%	2,137,818,331	-2.8%
40	40	Korea Exchange Bank	1,413,959,229	1,805,795,453	-21.7%	1,809,992,782	-21.8%
41	41	Bangkok Bank	1,376,223,205	1,184,654,206	16.2%	1,132,849,347	21.5%
42	42	Chase Manhattan Bank	742,318,006	537,166,840	38.2%	830,315,778	-10.6%
43	43	TA Bank of the Phils.	299,593,783	456,676,607	-34.4%	1,132,039,225	-73.5%
		TOTAL	1,256,801,959,808	1,280,252,082,902	-1.8%	1,278,286,960,099	-1.7%

Local banks among bourse's worst performers

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

THE THREAT of a new wave of big-time loan defaults has been weighing down even on the market's best bets among Philippine banks, many of which are still recovering from the Asian currency turmoil four years ago.

This threat did not help the banking sector in its efforts to regain the luster it used to enjoy prior to the Asian crisis. Instead, it is pulling bank issues further down, and with its 13-percent share in the total combined capitalization of all companies listed on the Philippine Stock Exchange, the banking sector seems to be dragging the entire market with it.

Last month, the financial index of the local bourse fell by about 17 percent, under-performing by 3 percent the main-share PSE composite index (Phsidx), which has already been among the worst performing in the region.

In the third quarter, investors sold down their holdings of most of the country's biggest banks and have continued to do so, maybe at a faster pace, after the Sept. 11 terrorist at-

tacks in the United States.

Talks about possible loan defaults by top-tier clients, the most recent of which was the Agustines family's Ramcar Inc. (the country's biggest automotive battery maker), have triggered serious concerns about the banking sector. Ramcar owes 16 banks about P8 billion.

A bigger concern is property developer Metro Pacific Corp., which owes several banks some P18 billion. Because of its financial woes, it was earlier forced to sell its stake in the Fort Bonifacio Global City project, supposedly its flagship project. Parent firm First Pacific Co. Ltd. earlier extended \$90 million in bridge financing to the company to prevent property unit Bonifacio Land Corp. from defaulting on a loan. Even the bridge financing will fall due in December.

As of the third week of September, the non-performing loan ratio of the banking sector was already at 18.5 percent. This is expected to further deteriorate if Ramcar and MPC would default on their obligations.

Eagle Equities president Joseph Roxas said that the fact that Ramcar's debt woes hit even Bank of the Philip-

pine Islands, which everyone regarded as the most conservative in the industry, sent shivers to the market.

"Everyone thought BPI, which always has the lowest NPL in the industry, was invincible," he said.

BPI has an exposure of more than P2 billion in Ramcar and as the market realized the risk that goes with it, the bank became one of the worst performing banking stocks during the third quarter. Its share price dropped by 29 percent. A default on its loan to Ramcar could jack up BPI's NPL ratio by one percentage point.

The other big creditors of Ramcar are Land Bank of the Philippines and Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. with loan exposure to the company of more than P1 billion each. Equitable PCI, another major creditor of the battery maker, is also seen to register a higher NPL ratio should Ramcar default on its loans. Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. is not as exposed to Ramcar as the other major banks, but it has significant exposure to MPC.

A foreign brokerage house said BPI stocks were being "de-rated," as the investing community was in disbelief that

Ramcar managed to slip past the bank's stringent scrutiny. BPI, however, does not have a significant exposure to MPC.

Also during the third quarter, Equitable PCI Bank shares dropped by 30 percent, Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co., by 3.5 percent, and Union Bank of the Philippines, by 37.5 percent.

First e-Bank Corp., the banking arm of MPC, was the worst performing in the banking sector for obvious reasons. Its share price fell 43.82 percent during the quarter.

The only banks that seemed to have bucked the downtrend in the third quarter were Philippine National Bank, whose share price rose by 13.64 percent and RCBC, whose shares advanced by a modest 5.26 percent, but that was before the Ramcar news broke out.

Although the market has gotten used to the fact that PNB has always been among those with the worst NPL ratio in the industry, the prospects of the government regaining control of the bank from taipan Lucio Tan gave the market some relief.

Overall, analysts are expecting local banks to report dismal earnings for the

third and fourth quarters of the year, triggering the sell-down of bank stocks.

International credit rating agency Standard & Poor's, for its part, recently issued a warning that, many analysts believe, might lead to credit rating downgrades on local banks. It said that the Philippine banking industry was "weak by global standards," reflecting heightened economic and industry risks.

S&P said local banks were increasingly vulnerable to external shocks. It also expressed concern that the rising NPL was eroding profitability and preventing banks from boosting capital.

The rating agency also said that the shift in assets to government securities from bank loans increased the market risk profile of banks. This, however, was refuted by Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura who stressed that when corporate fundamentals were deteriorating, the defensive stance was to retreat to safer government securities.

Other points stressed by S&P were:

- While the removal of non-performing assets from the balance sheets is posi-

tive, the mere transfer of the NPLs to an asset management company (AMC) will not immediately solve banks' problems;

- Banks should have more robust risk-management practices; and,

- An economic recovery will help in the banking system's own recovery.

"Except for the shift to government securities, where we agree with Buenaventura, all the other observations are non-controversial. We believe an economic recovery is an essential ingredient to the strengthening of the banking system, which should be supported by an improvement in procedural checks," ATR Kim Eng Securities head of research Luz Lorenzo said.

The rising loan default risks will make the banks more cautious in lending, which could serve as a double-edged sword to them since during difficult times, there are not much alternative sources of revenues for them. Any new bad loans will eat up their earnings as banks will be obliged to put up provisions.

As such, protecting loan portfolio remains the key to sustaining respectable earnings among banks over the long term.

Surge in bad loans threatens banks

(From page E1)

The central bank had implemented two rounds of increases in the banks' reserve requirement from 16 percent to 20 percent in late July and in early August to protect the peso.

The hike in reserves was even accompanied by more regulation to tighten the noose on peso speculators, like the reduction by half to \$5,000 the maximum amount one could buy over the counter and without supporting papers.

As an apparent move to push the peso, the central bank, in an unprecedented name-and-shame strategy, announced in August the nine banks found to have violated its already stringent foreign exchange policies.

This was not to say that the central bank should not have done what it did. After all, the peso had tumbled to as low as 54.335 to a dollar last July 17, its lowest level under the Macapagal administration and a rate during the last days of ousted President Estrada.

For Buenaventura, interest rates are already low enough, and whether there is still room for authorities to bring it down largely depends on the inflation numbers and US Fed moves.

The lower-than-expected inflation rate of 5.4 percent, however, can prod monetary authorities to help ease interest rates in the coming months.

Aside from the peso, what is more unsettling is the swelling bad loans of locally operating banks, another central bank official said.

Rising bad loans

By the end of the third quarter, the bad loans of commercial banks have soared to 18.5 percent of their total loan portfolio from 17.26 percent the previous quarter.

The amount of bad loans rose by 5.84 percent or by P15.646 billion to P283.32 billion in the third quarter from P267.674 billion from the months of April to June, based on data from the INQUIRER research.

Inversely, the total loan portfolio had dwindled by P19 billion or 1.22 percent to P1.53 trillion from P1.55 trillion in the second quarter. The ratio of non-performing loans as of end-September was even higher than the 18.03 percent reported by the central bank as of August.

As the loan quality of banks worsened, their lending activity almost stood still during the third quarter. As of August, bank lending posted a contraction of 0.3 percent for the first time in years.

Due to the economic malaise, Buenaventura explained that while businesses and individuals were held back from tapping loans from banks, the lenders themselves were wary and have become selective in extending credit.

This was why, he pointed out, banks needed to clean up their books, and only the asset management companies (AMCs) are offering a solution to their problems.

Of the 43 locally operating commercial banks, 17 lenders posted non-performing loan ratios that were higher than the industry average, and the list included six of the Top 10 largest banks in terms of assets.

Sixth largest Philippine National Bank's bad loans already reached 53 percent of its total loan portfolio as of the third quarter, up from 44 percent the previous quarter.

PNB president Feliciano Miranda Jr. reasoned out that the bank's NPL ratio was going up because the company had pursued a very modest policy for lending.

"We have not been granting new loans except to local government units and those that have been paying their loans on time," the PNB president said.

Largest bad loan portfolio

But the numbers tell a different story. While PNB's loan portfolio had indeed declined by 5 percent to P96.52 billion, the amount of soured loans as of the third quarter had gone up by 14.35 percent to P51.157 billion, the largest bad loans portfolio held by a commercial lender.

Miranda said the bank was already entertaining offers from at least seven AMC groups to fast-track the disposal of the foreclosed assets and to start cleaning up the loan portfolio.

The PNB president pointed out that the key to the bank's lasting financial health was its pending rehabilitation, which may push through next year if taipan Lucio Tan had really agreed to let the government convert part of the P25 billion in emergency loans into equity in the bank.

Miranda, a nominee of Tan in the PNB board, had confirmed that the taipan had agreed to a P40-per-share conversion price, which was lower than the bank's par value of P60 each and its trading price.

Fourth largest Equitable PCI Bank, one that is gradually recovering from last year's crisis, also registered a substantial bad loans ratio of 20.99 percent of total loan portfolio, slightly up from 19.55 percent the previous quarter.

Equitable PCI was able to settle some P18 billion of its P30 billion in emergency loans from the BSP, and another P3 billion was paid in early October.

The gradual retirement of the bank's expensive borrowing from the central bank's emergency facility should help improve the bank's profitability. However, ING Barings, in a recent study, noted that the bank's projected earnings this year might turn out to be losses by the end of the year.

The Metrobank Group, the country's largest in terms of assets, also sustained a huge NPL portfolio of P30.958 billion or 17.21 percent of its P179.886 billion loan portfolio.

State-owned Land Bank of the Philippines also got stuck with P30.59 billion worth of soured loans equivalent to 26.27 percent of its total loan portfolio. Compared with Metrobank's loan portfolio, Landbank's is much smaller at P116.46 billion, giving a higher bad loans ratio.

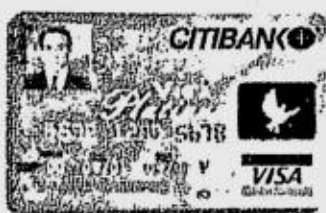
It's not just a Credit Card



It's an invitation to fly for free.

Introducing Citibank VISA Platinum. The world is yours to explore.

Begin your journey with the Fly for Free program. Receive a complimentary ticket for your companion -- simply purchase a Business Class or First Class round trip ticket from Philippine Airlines with your Citibank VISA Platinum card. Now comes the best part: complete 3 round trips on long-haul flights (or 5 round trips on short-haul flights) with your travelling partner, and another bonus ticket is yours! Just another way of showing how much we value you, and those closest to you. Only from Citibank.



DISCOVER PLATINUM!

Call 24-Hour CitiPhone Hotline

at 995-9999 in Metro Manila, 234-9999 in Metro Cebu

and 1-800-100-9959999 (toll free) in other provinces for more details.

* Terms and Conditions apply

Philippine Airlines
www.philippineair.com

Per DTI-NCR permit no. 1191 series of 2001

CITIBANK

With a grim world economic outlook, bonds offer a way out

(From page E1)

will be to put it in treasury bonds or the retail T-bonds of the government. Why? Because the timing is perfect. The yield curve is steep right now, so this is an opportunity to take advantage of. Definitely the bias for short-term interest rates is for them to remain low, which could be between 8 and a little above 10 percent. Lots of investors are usually looking for short-term placements, but if you don't have use for the money in the long term, I think it's best to put it in T-bonds. The two-year FXTNs (fixed-rate treasury notes) can yield you right now 14 to 14.25 percent or a net yield of 11.25 percent. This gives you a lot of opportunity to maximize your funds."



DE QUIROS

Emil de Quiros, Bank of the Philippine Islands Asset Management Group head

"Among the various peso-denominated common trust funds available to retail clients, BPI Asset Management offers the BPI Premium Fund, a fund invested in a diversified portfolio of high-grade fixed income securities and instruments. This fund has consistently beaten the 91-day treasury bill average yield. The BPI Capital Fund provides an equity risk-averse investor with a diversified portfolio of equities and marketable securities as market conditions so warrant.

BPI Asset Management also offers dollar-denominated CTFs, like the BPI Global Philippine Fund and BPI International Fund Plus. BPI-GPF is invested in dollar-denominated fixed income instruments issued or guaranteed

by the Philippine government as well as select issues of prime Philippine corporations and financial institutions, while BPI-IFP is invested in a diversified portfolio of international fixed-income instruments, mutual funds and segregated managed accounts. As of Sept. 30, 2001, investors enjoyed superior month-on-month returns with a net yield of 7.49 percent per annum and 5.93 percent per annum for BPI-IFP and BPI-GPF, respectively."

Allan Tumbaga, Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. vice president and marketing management division head

"If one has P100,000 and can lock in the money for as long as five years, I recommend investing it in the Premium Time Deposit of RCBC Savings Bank, the thrift bank of RCBC. The Premium Time Deposit is a five-year, fixed-term deposit product whose interest earnings are not subject to withholding taxes. The Premium Time Deposit earns for its investor a simple interest rate of 13.33 percent per annum for five years. The investment of

P100,000 will become P166,667 at the end of the period. This is made possible by the comprehensive tax reform program, a law that exempts five-year deposit instruments' earnings from the 20-percent withholding tax and from the documentary stamps tax for time deposits maintained for five years. What's more, the yield of 13.33 percent is quite high and can only be topped by the currently unavailable double-your-money scheme.

The Premium Time Deposit also lets depositors earn based on the current 91-day T-bill rate. This means that he can get the chance to earn with the times since the interest rate is not locked for five years but actually moves with the market on a monthly basis. Plus, as a further guarantee that he earns higher than regular deposit rates, the depositor is also assured that his interest rate will not go lower than 8 percent per annum even if market rates do. As an added advantage, the depositor's interest earnings are automatically credited to his savings or

checking account every month's end, while letting his principal investment keep earning at RCBC Savings Bank."

Antonio Moncupa, International Exchange Bank executive vice president and head of treasury

"Let's assume we have a long-term investor whose purpose is savings build-up. He is credit conscious and will take only reasonable credit exposures. I would advise this type of investor to put his or her money in fixed-rate treasury notes with tenors of five to 10 years. Present yields are between 16 and 17 percent. The risk is rates could still go up. I think we are near the top, however, as the typical 30- to 90-day placement did not average anywhere near this rate. Our investor will also receive interest every six months. Best of all, he will have the best credit



MONCUPA

exposure: The government. Now, if Mr. Investor has money to be spent after three months or so, the best route is to put it in a time deposit. Banks typically pay a premium for these deposits. Mr. Investor could also wait a while for the expected issuance of negotiable certificate of deposits, which has just been allowed by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas. These instruments are typically five years and above, with yields expected to be close to similar tenors of T-bills (for floaters) or treasury notes, with no withholding taxes for individual investors. These instruments are expected to hit the market in a few months. Since no credit is more superior than the National Government, and since these are credit exposures to their favorite banks, investors could expect to take home better yields.

Break Free from the restrictions of conventional time deposits.



Open a High-Yield Flexible Savings Account with HSBC and you'll enjoy higher interest rates, plus you can still access up to 90% of your money anytime you want. Also, your interest is paid monthly so you can use the funds immediately.

With the High-Yield Flexible Savings Account from HSBC, your money earns good interest. But anytime you need cash, you can always avail of an automatic guaranteed credit line. Get cash — in any currency — without touching your deposit which continues to earn interest.

To know more about the High-Yield Flexible Savings Account, call HSBC at 878-9000 and press 0. In Cebu, call (032) 254-8291. Or visit an HSBC branch near you.

World-class safety and service comes guaranteed with the package. Open a High-Yield Flexible Savings Account now, and receive a free international Financial Planner to help you plan your finances better.

HSBC

YOUR WORLD OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

Gain new financial freedom with the High-Yield Flexible Savings Account from HSBC

Let's face it, conventional time deposits don't give you much flexibility. They also give few reasons to maintain your deposit and gain maximum benefits.

But now, there's the new **High-Yield Flexible Savings Account** from HSBC. It's not like ordinary time deposits. Deposit your money from seven days to five years, and enjoy many features that will let you get the best out of your investment.

Receive your interest monthly

Unlike standard time deposits, you won't have to wait until the end of your deposit's term to receive the interest your money has earned. With one-year and five-year Peso placements, you'll receive your interest payments monthly. It's like getting extra income every month.

Enjoy high interest — tax free!

Book your money in five-year terms, and get your interest tax-free. This gives you a substantial 20% savings. And since you receive your interest monthly, you enjoy this benefit immediately.

Access your funds anytime you want

This really differentiates the **High-Yield Flexible Savings Account** from other time deposits. If you need cash for anything, avail of an automatic credit line of up to 90% of your investment — without preterminating your deposit. Your money remains intact and you continue to earn high interest.

Maintain your account in 11 different currencies

Choose to maintain your account in any

of 11 international currencies, the widest range in the market — US Dollars, Philippine Pesos, Euro, Australian Dollars, British Pound Sterling, Canadian Dollars, Hong Kong Dollars, Japanese Yen, Swiss Francs, New Zealand Dollars, and Singaporean Dollars.

Here's an example of how the High-Yield Flexible Savings Account works:

Mr. Gonzales, an office manager, has saved P500,000 and he decides to invest it in a **High-Yield Flexible Savings Account** for one year at 9.5% p.a. At the end of that one year, he automatically gets P48,159.72 worth of interest.

On the sixth month, Mr. Gonzales suddenly needs P150,000. With other time deposits, he has no other choice but to break his one-year investment. In so doing, he foregoes six months worth of

interest and loses close to P25,000. Plus, the high interest rate of 9.5% he has been enjoying may no longer be available.

But with the **High-Yield Flexible Savings Account**, Mr. Gonzales does not have to break his investment. Using the **Anytime Money** Feature, he can draw as much as P450,000 (90% of his deposit) without preterminating his money.

So he conveniently gets his P150,000, and assuming he is able to repay the amount he borrowed within 45 days, he will only be charged P2,625 for interest. That's a savings of more than P20,000 compared to what he might have lost with standard time deposits.

For more information on the **High-Yield Flexible Savings Account**, call 878-9000 or visit an HSBC branch near you.

ADVT.